

Ghali: German role vital for U.N.

BONN (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Monday Germany should take part fully in peace-keeping missions to help to make the world body more effective. He told reporters after meeting Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel that he realised Germany had constitutional problems in providing troops for the United Nations. But he called on Bonn, which has so far mainly helped to pay for U.N. operations, to solve its problems so that it could join the whole range of U.N. missions, including military tasks. "We don't need so much money. We need real participation on the ground," Dr. Ghali said. "Without it (Germany), the United Nations will be unable to fulfil its new goals. The United Nations needs the full participation of Germany." Mr. Kohl, who wants Germany to play a full role in the United Nations after unification two years ago, said Bonn strongly supported the world organisation. "We are the third largest contributor to the regular budget," he said. "For me there is no doubt about the fact that we as members of the United Nations not only enjoy certain rights but also have certain obligations to fulfil."

Jordan Times

Amman, Jordan
Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Volume 17 Number 5205

AMMAN TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1993, RAJAB 19, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Yemen suspends 4 official newspapers

ADEN, Yemen (R) — Yemen's two ruling parties have called a truce in their "media war" by suspending the publication of their newspapers until next week, a government official said Monday. He said the decision was taken to stop a "media war" that had negative effects on the relations between the two parties following cost-of-living riots last month in the capital Sanaa and other cities. He said the "Mithaq" and "May 22" newspapers of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's General People's Congress and the Yemen Socialist Party's "Al Thawri" and "Mustakbal" would resume publication next week. He said the two parties, which have jointly ruled Yemen since the merger of the North and South in 1990, would coordinate the future policies of the newspapers.

OAU chief seeks Algeria's help

ALGIERS (R) — The secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Salim Ahmed Salim, met Algerian leader Ali Kafi Monday to discuss the continent's problems and ways of making its voice heard internationally. Mr. Salim told local journalists after his talks that they had especially looked at "ways of consolidating cooperation between African countries... reinforcing the African identity and refusing all marginalisation of the continent." The two men had also discussed Africa's various crises, such as civil war and famine in Somalia, civil war in Angola, and conflict in Liberia and Mozambique, and ways of resolving them. The OAU chief arrived in Algiers Sunday. He is due to visit the Western Sahara where an uneasy ceasefire exists between Morocco and the independence-seeking Polisario Front.

250,000 whites consider leaving S. Africa — poll

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African research group said Monday that more than 250,000 whites were thinking of emigrating because of economic problems, crime and political uncertainty. The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) said a "frightening number" of white school-leavers, particularly Afrikaans-speakers, were thinking of leaving the country. "Even though it does not mean all these people are taking active steps to leave, the figures have never been this high," said HSRC official Lawrence Schlemmer. The government's Central Statistical Services said the number of professionals emigrating between January and September last year was nine per cent higher than in the same period of 1991. But another government official said official statistics might not reflect the whole picture as some South Africans left the country unofficially.

Algeria executes two

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has executed two Muslim fundamentalists condemned to death over an attack on a naval facility last February, the Justice Ministry said Monday. They are the first executions reported carried out after trials over the past year in which 48 men have been sentenced to death. The ministry statement was carried by the official news agency APS.

Iraqis' incursions into disputed area with Kuwait raise tension

Arms, equipment removed, warehouses dismantled at Umm Qasr naval base

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQIS CROSSED the border into Kuwait Monday for a second time in as many days and dismantled warehouses at a disputed naval base. Abdul Latif Kabbaj, spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in Kuwait, said that the 150 Iraqis had been warned by U.N. observers that they were acting in violation of Gulf war ceasefire agreements. The incident came a day after about 200 armed Iraqis in civilian clothing went to the area and seized armaments, including explosives and four Chinese-built anti-ship Silkworm missiles that had been abandoned by Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Kabbaj said the U.N. personnel tried to stop the raiders by blocking their vehicles with U.N. trucks, and at least one U.N.

vehicle was rammed by the Iraqis.

The incident occurred just south of the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr at a U.N. position known as Camp Khor, about 400 metres inside what is considered Kuwaiti territory. A U.N. envoy, Richard Foran, arrived in Baghdad Monday to seek the immediate return of all the seized materials. U.N. sources there said. Mr. Foran declined to talk to reporters but the sources said UNIKOM in Baghdad had lodged a protest over the incursions. Canada's ambassador to Kuwait, Christopher Poole, said the Iraqis threatened Sunday to kill a Canadian member of UNIKOM who tried to block the vehicles. "One of them pointed a pistol at the unarmed Canadian officer... I do not know if they were

all armed but some of them were," he said.

Iraq said the men were civilians hired by a contractor. The hunkers and the warehouses were in territory controlled by Baghdad before the 1991 six-week conflict that ousted Iraqi forces from Kuwait. The area has been demarcated as Kuwaiti territory by the U.N. but Baghdad has refused to recognise the new frontier. At the United Nations, Iraq's envoy Nizar Hamdoun said that Iraq had U.N. consent to remove material from its side of the demilitarised zone with Kuwait ahead of a Jan. 15 deadline. The Security Council had set the deadline for removal of Iraqi property from Kuwaiti territory. But it said it should be carried out only after prior clearance by UNIKOM and Kuwaiti authorities.

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Arabs to demand timetable for evictees' return, sanctions on Israel

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab ministers began talks Monday on Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians. Diplomats said they were to debate a proposal for a strict U.N. timetable for their return and a demand for immediate sanctions against Israel. Hundreds of students demonstrated for the second day outside Cairo University, a few blocks from the Israeli embassy. They burned three Israeli flags. Many students chanted anti-Israel slogans and called on God to punish Israel. Police kept a close watch but did not intervene.

Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid said in the opening session: "In view of the Israeli stand which has scorned the will of the international community and its legal and moral principles, we appeal to all peace loving nations not to allow Israel to violate international law this time and to follow international legitimacy by forcing it to return the evictees."

Officials said all 21 league members were present at the meeting, including 15 foreign ministers.

Praising the evictees, Dr. Abdul Meguid said: "I affirm to you that your Arab Nation, people and governments appreciate the tough conditions... and inhuman life you were put into by the Israeli occupation."

"Let everybody know that their suffering is a mark of disgrace for Israel... by expelling them, Israel has publicly shown the falsehood of its claims about freedom and democracy, and has disclosed its true face to the world," he added.

Diplomats added that it was not clear how far the ministers would go in pressing the United Nations to impose sanctions on Israel, knowing that the United States would exercise its veto. The evictees called for sanctions on Monday.

They said the Palestinian demand for a quick enforcement of sanctions would most likely be a bone of contention at the meeting in Cairo.

The ministers would probably avoid threatening at this stage to boycott Middle East peace talks, hoping instead that the crisis can be resolved before the negotiations resume in February, the diplomats said.

They said the talks would focus on Palestinian and Lebanese proposals which were presented to the Arab League and adopted as the two main documents to be discussed.

Lebanon has demanded that the U.N. Security Council meet to set a timetable and a mechanism for the implementation of Resolution 799 which calls on Israel to take back the evictees. Lebanon also wants the U.N. to set a one-month deadline and impose sanctions if Israel fails to comply.

Lebanon also asked the Red Cross to exert pressure on Israel to allow humanitarian aid to the evictees.

Israel dumped the evictees in South Lebanon on Dec. 17. The Lebanese government refused to let them cross army lines so they have spent three weeks camped on an icy hillside in a no man's land with little food or medicine.

The Security Council passed a resolution on Dec. 18 demanding that Israel reverse its decision. Israel says the men support Islamic groups that killed five Israeli soldiers.

The Lebanese proposal also called for an Arab summit of heads of states to discuss the crisis. It voiced its backing for U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali who warned Israel he might take "further steps" if Israel still

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Jordan's hopes to raise \$350 m in aid described as realistic

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is hoping to secure up to \$350 million from the West and Japan to make up the projected deficit in the Kingdom's balance of payments for the year 1993. The effort will be launched during a meeting of donor countries scheduled to be held in Paris later this month.

Diplomatic sources as well as local economic analysts described as realistic the Kingdom's expectation to come up with the sought amount during the Jan. 28 meeting, which will bring together 24 countries and organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the European Commission.

"I believe that Jordan should not face any serious problem in raising the funds from the meeting," said a Western diplomat. "Jordan's successful economic performance under severe hardships has earned the respect

of most of the donor countries as well as the IMF and the World Bank."

An IMF/World Bank report which estimates that Jordan needs \$350 million to close the 1993 financing gap over and above the foreign loans and grants projected in the fiscal budget is expected to be the main item on the meeting's agenda. In addition, there will be a scrutiny of the Kingdom's adherence to the economic restructuring programme in that meeting.

The report bases its figures on the programme, which Jordan agreed with the IMF last year, said Fahed Fanek, a prominent Jordanian columnist and economic analyst.

According to another European diplomat, "not all the amount that Jordan is seeking may come in the form of direct aid to help the balance of payment situation; some of it may be in the form of loans for essential development projects."

However, noted the diplomat,

"in whatever form, the assistance should make up for the deficit in foreign exchange that Jordan faces to help its balance of payment."

Dr. Fanek said Jordan would have to draw from its own reserves if commitments made at the Paris meeting fall short of \$350 million.

Such an eventuality, he added, will have a negative impact on the local economic scene.

However, the diplomat noted that the West, particularly the European Community (EC), and Japan would not allow such a course of events, particularly that the IMF and the World Bank are doing the Jordanian economic performance as an example to be emulated.

"Jordan represents a showcase success in economic performance guided and supervised by the IMF and the World Bank," noted one of them. "Quite simply they

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His Majesty King Hussein Monday holds talks with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo (Petra photo)

King, Colombo discuss peace process, bilateral ties

Jordan, Italy sign \$19 m debt rescheduling accord

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday met with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo and discussed with him the Middle East peace process as well as Jordanian-Italian cooperation and relations.

The King emphasised that the "people of this region aspire for democracy, respect for human rights and political pluralism" and that "democracy can guarantee a solution to all issues related to extremism, despair and frustration," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

It said that the Italian minister, who arrived here earlier on a one-day visit and was to leave later for Lebanon, paid tribute to the leadership of King Hussein and voiced Italy's appreciation of the democratisation process under way in the Kingdom as well as Jordan's contribution to international peace-keeping operations.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and acting Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and the Italian ambassador to Jordan, Romaldo Bettini.

Earlier Mr. Bettini said that Mr. Colombo's visit to Jordan "symbolises the strong ties of

friendship between Jordan and Italy and reaffirms Italy's faith in the leading role that Jordan is playing in efforts to achieve peace and regional cooperation."

The ambassador noted that Italy remained bound by the European Community's (EC) declarations on the Palestinian question, endorsing the right of the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Colombo reaffirmed his country's keen interest in the Arab-Israeli peace process and expressed hope that the crisis sparked by Israel's expulsion of over 400

(Continued on page 5)

Mediators rush Serbs to drop statehood demand

GENEVA (R) — International mediators tried on Monday to talk the Bosnian Serbs out of their demand to create a mini-state of their own in a post-war Bosnia.

As a make-or-break round of Bosnian peace talks went into a second day, Serbia's nationalist President Slobodan Milosevic appeared at the Geneva conference for the first time, declaring himself "an optimist" about ending the Balkan conflict.

Mediators Cyrus Vance and David Owen were hoping that Mr. Milosevic, a powerful figure in the entire Yugoslav crisis, would put pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to end the nine-month war in the former Yugoslav Republic.

But Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, after three hours with the mediators, still appeared to be insisting on a state within a state, the issue blocking progress in the talks.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen were trying to persuade Karadzic to sign a 10-point constitutional plan under which Bosnia would be divided into 10 autonomous

provinces, variously dominated by Serbs, Muslims or Croats. The Serbs Sunday produced an eight-point plan of their own which made no mention of Bosnia being a sovereign state, as demanded both by the Muslims and the mediators.

Conference spokesman Fred Edkhard told reporters the two versions were "not that far away" from each other. But he acknowledged that the remaining gap related to the state-within-a-state demand.

Mr. Eckhard said Mr. Vance and Lord Owen were trying to persuade the Serbs that their concerns — that they would be dominated by the larger Muslim community in a single Bosnian state — could be met by the mediators' plan.

In Dakar, Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic accused Serbs Monday of using the Geneva talks as a smokescreen for military action in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

France plans to open Bosnian camps, page 8

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Storm shakes more oil loose from stricken tanker

SUMBURGH, Shetland Islands (Agencies) — Infrared images indicate that the tanker Braer holds substantial amounts of its cargo, a government official said, but more oil spilled Monday as a violent storm rocked the hulk.

The storm, with sustained winds of nearly 80-kilometres per-hour (kph) and gusts up to 150 kph overnight, again prevented any efforts to salvage the oil.

"The ship has survived the overnight weather," Shetlands Marine director George Sutherland said at a news conference. "The sea is very heavy, it's working over the ship."

Mr. Sutherland said "very small quantities" of oil were spilling as the tanker heaved on swells.

The blasts of wind and snow also thwarted Prince Charles and his father, Prince Philip, who cancelled plans to inspect the damage on Monday. Buckingham Palace said they would try again Tuesday.

No aircraft dared land at the main Shetland airport as winds lashed the cluster of islands off the Scottish coast. Aberdeen air-

port, the source of most lights for the Shetlands, was closed by snow.

The ferocity of the storms raised fears among coastguards that the tanker could break up and disgorge its remaining cargo, further fouling the delicate habitat of seabirds and wildlife.

But marine officials said the storms were actually helping combat the pollution by churning up the oily waters and dispersing the slick, as long as the structure stays together.

Environmentalists and islanders are in no doubt about the gravity of the oil spill. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) said important bird colonies could be wiped out by the oil, their breeding grounds spoiled for years to come.

"At least a thousand birds are known to have been oiled so far and countless more will have perished," said Graham Wynne, RSPB director of conservation.

The ship's U.S.-led base owners, Bergvall Hudner, said in a statement Monday that they would fund efforts to treat the injured wildlife.

Somali factions agree on immediate ceasefire

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Somalia's factions agreed Monday to declare an immediate ceasefire and start dismantling their militias of heavy weapons, but diplomats doubted warlords could deliver lasting peace to the chaotic country.

"A ceasefire monitoring group comprised of United Nations troops shall be established immediately," said a statement issued at U.N.-sponsored talks among 15 factions in the Ethiopian capital.

The statement added a monitoring group would take possession of all heavy weapons under the control of political movements "for safekeeping until such time as a legitimate Somali government can take them over."

But diplomats and many Somalis are sceptical the warlords can persuade their unruly militias to end the rampage of clan feuding and banditry that plunged Somalia into anarchy and sparked a famine in which at least 300,000 people have died.

They added that a peace accord has to be backed up by a massive programme of disarmament, a task on which the 32,000-strong U.S.-led forces have been taking a tougher line as the week-long talks progressed.

On Monday some 900 U.S. Marines swept through Mogadishu's main market to close down a gun bazaar where weapons from pistols to anti-tank guns are on sale (see page 2).

Somalia is still awash with weapons supplied by the superpowers during the cold war. Ill-trained militias have used mortars, tanks, armoured cars and heavy machineguns mounted on jeeps known as "technical" to throw the country into turmoil.

Under the accord faction representatives will work with U.N. military observers to end a conflict that engulfed Somalia two years ago and has raged in the capital Mogadishu and belts of bush in the northeast and south.

After a week of talks the factions have agreed to draw up a national charter and discuss forming a new interim government at a reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa on March 15.

Delegates said factions were still bickering over which groups should attend the reconciliation talks, an issue which has dogged the current Addis Ababa talks.

Some warlords, such as General Mohammed Farah Aideed of Mogadishu, want only the main militias that ousted dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991 to rule Somalia.

Many delegates, the United States and the U.N. want a wide range of civilians such as clan elders, religious leaders and intellectuals to decide the country's political future.

Sources said Ethiopian government officials who last Friday helped pressure Gen. Aideed into committing his faction to attend the reconciliation talks, were trying to mediate the issue of who should participate in the planned conference.

Other points in the agreement include:

— Militias are to set up camps outside major towns awaiting to be disarmed in a national exercise starting as soon as possible and to be ended no later than March 1.

— All armed civilians are to register their weapons for eventual disarmament in conjunction with the formation of a provisional government.

— All prisoners of war will be freed and handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross and all property unlawfully taken during the fighting will be returned to the awful owners.

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U.S. Marines raid Mogadishu gun market

MOGADISHU (R) — U.S. Marines confiscated stocks of weapons in a sweep through Somalia's biggest arms market on Monday in their latest attempt to end gun rule in Mogadishu.

"We have seized a large number of weapons," said Major Ken Roberts. "We feel we have taken a significant number of weapons off the streets and out of the market."

The U.S. military has pledged to clean up the anarchy in Somalia capital to pave the way for future U.N. peacekeepers expected to replace the present 32,000-strong task force.

A senior U.S. official in Mogadishu said Monday that he believed the Americans would make a substantial contribution to the projected U.N. force, but would not command it.

"There will be a significant U.S. contribution to a U.N.-led operation, but we will no longer be in the lead," said the official, who asked not to be named.

He said he had the impression that U.S. policy on Somalia would not change in the short term after President-elect Bill Clinton takes over from President George Bush on Jan. 20.

About 900 Marines in armoured vehicles moved in after daylight to seal off the sprawling Bakara Market, a maze of dusty streets where a thriving arms bazaar sprang up after the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre two years ago.

"No shots were fired," said another military spokesman, Navy Commander Jim Kudla. He said the Marines had found one warehouse packed with grenades and ammunition for howitzers and mortars.

Operation Nntcracker was the biggest of its kind since the U.S.-led task force splashed ashore in Mogadishu on Dec. 9.

The market lies in an area nominally controlled by warlord Mohammed Farah Aided, a U.S. spokesman said it was believed to be the largest weapons bazaar in Somalia.

On Friday 450 Marines closed down a smaller arms market, in known as the Argente Market, in north Mogadishu, held by forces loyal to Gen. Aided's bitter rival Ali Mahdi Mohammed.

"We're going to keep this place closed down till sun-down. Nothing goes in and nothing comes out," said a Marine sergeant at a checkpoint two kilometers from the heart of the market.

Before the operation, gunfire would regularly crack out as customers fired in the air to test weapons on display.

Five days ago, a Somali working for a foreign news agency was fatally shot in the back when he tried to stop a robbery in another part of the market selling food and household goods.

Many Mogadishu residents are fed up with the gun rule and lawlessness which has plagued their city. About 30,000 people

have been killed in two years of clan feuding.

"If there are no weapons, the robbers cannot loot the people," said Mohammed Sharif, a 22-year-old driver.

The market offered a bewildering range of armaments — from pistols and grenades to assault rifles and anti-aircraft guns.

The arrival of the U.S.-led task force immediately depressed prices because of speculation that foreign troops would move swiftly to disarm clan gangs, militias and free-lance bandits.

"Now a Kalashnikov costs only about \$100," Mr. Sharif said. "Before the Americans came it was \$500."

Insecurity still haunts the capital, even though foreign troops have rapidly taken control of island famine towns to make sure relief convoys can deliver food to the starving.

Nour Aboukadir, a Somali working for the relief agency Goal-Ireland, was killed by cross-fire outside a feeding centre near Mogadishu's green line rival clans fought Sunday.

"We have been telling them (the task force) about security problems in that area for two weeks," goal coordinator Marie Hallisey said.

The U.S. military has begun to exert a tighter grip on Mogadishu, using combat units returning to the capital after their initial deployment to the famine-stricken interior.



IRAQI PILOTS demonstrate in front of the U.N. office in Baghdad Monday to demand the lifting of the ban on the use of Iraqi planes under the international embargo on their country (AFP photo)

Russia urges Iraq to avoid confrontation

MOSCOW (R) — Russia urged Iraq Sunday to take "a sensible position" and avoid confrontation with Gulf allies by keeping its forces away from "no-fly" zone in the south.

In a Foreign Ministry statement, Moscow said flights by Iraqi aircraft into the zone and the deployment of anti-aircraft weapons threatening patrolling allied planes had led to "a surge in tension."

The Russian side "appealed to Baghdad to adopt a sensible position and take steps to pull Iraq back from a possible strike and spare its people from new sufferings," the statement, issued by ITAR-TASS news agency said.

Under Liberal Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev, Russia has given full backing to United Nations resolutions against Iraq.

But this has met with opposition from nationalists and ex-communists unhappy that Moscow is aligning its policy with the West and abandoning a traditional friend.

Russia issued its statement as Washington and Baghdad traded insults over attempts by Iraq to violate the U.N.-imposed "no-fly" zone.

The Foreign Ministry statement said Moscow had joined the United States, Britain and France in putting pressure on Iraq to avoid renewed confrontation and their concerted efforts so far had "made it possible to evade a large-scale military-political confrontation."

"We would like to hope that good sense will prevail in Baghdad and the Iraqi side will take steps to abide fully by the relevant resolutions of the U.N.," the statement said.

It said Russia in particular wanted the Iraqi authorities to lift its ban on the use of U.N. helicopters to bring in U.N. personnel and the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission.

CIA tells why U.S. 'let' Saddam stay in power

By Jim Mann
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Robert M. Gates has provided a new, detailed account of one of the most historically significant and controversial actions of the Bush administration: the decision to leave Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in power at the end of the Gulf war.

In an interview with the Times this week as he prepares to leave office, Gates — deputy national security adviser at the White House before and during the war against Iraq — acknowledged that administration officials talked extensively about the possibility of making the capture of Hussein one of America's war aims.

In the end, Gates said, administration officials rejected the idea, largely because they feared that the Iraqi leader would go into hiding, as Panamanian strongman Manuel A. Noriega had done during the 1989 U.S. military intervention in Panama, and that U.S. troops would be unable to find him.

Even now, in the final days of his presidency, Mr. Bush finds himself grappling with some of the continuing challenges and pressures of defiance by the Iraqi leader, whose forces now are challenging American planes in the "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq.

At the time of the war, Gates said, most top-level U.S. officials involved in discussions about Hussein remembered the frustration in Panama.

"You were dealing with some people (administration officials) who had some experience in trying to find the leader of a country where the U.S. military had taken action, in Panama," Gates said. "And I don't know how long it would have been before we found Noriega, if he hadn't turned himself in to the Papal Legate."

After the invasion of Panama, Gates said, the U.S. military was not prepared to find him.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Algerian forces kill six extremists

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian troops and special units have killed six Muslim fundamentalists in overnight clashes over three days, paramilitary gendarmerie headquarters said. Two soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously. The security force, quoted by Algerian Radio Monday, said among the dead was Boudou Kamel, blamed for killing a captain of the gendarmerie last July. The captain was one of more than 210 members of the security forces killed in 1992 in ambushes blamed on Muslim extremists seeking to force Algeria to become an Islamic state. The sweeps against the "terrorists" — Algeria's term for the extremists — took place in Blida and Bouira provinces, two of seven provinces put under overnight curfew last Dec. 5. Kamel was trapped on Saturday night with an accomplice north of the town of Lakhadaria, where the captain was killed. The town, a known fundamentalist bastion, is about 50 kilometers southeast of Algiers. It has been the scene of several earlier clashes. Troops recovered a sub-machinegun, two sawn-off shotguns, home-made bombs and ammunition.

Libya staying away from Arab meeting

NICOSIA (R) — Libya is staying away from a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo Monday because it does not want to risk sending a minister by road, the official Libyan news agency JANA said Sunday. Libyans have not been able to fly abroad since the United Nations imposed an air embargo last April. Libyan Justice Secretary (Minister) Ibrahim Mohammed Bakkar was killed in a traffic accident last week on his way back from an Arab League ministerial meeting in Tunis. JANA said more than 690 people had been killed on the roads in accidents which would not have happened if they had been able to travel by plane.

8 militants jailed for murder in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Eight Muslim militants in the Egyptian oasis of Fayoum have been sentenced to hard labour for life for murder, the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram said Monday. It said the men, members of a group known as the Shawqiyyin, were found guilty of killing a surveyor and his assistant who were working in fields near the village of Kahk, the organisation's main base southwest of Cairo. The militants thought the men were intelligence agents, the paper said. The Shawqiyyin are an offshoot of Jihad, which assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981. More than 70 people, including militants, police, Christians, and a British tourist, have been killed in violence involving militant groups over the last year in Egypt.

Morocco grants partial amnesty to detainees

RABAT (AP) — The government Sunday announced it has reduced or eliminated jail sentences against 507 prisoners, in a traditional gesture marking the 49th anniversary of the country's independence. In a communique, the Justice Ministry said it cut the remaining sentences for 314 inmates and 52 others would only be required to pay fines, indicating it would free them. The remainder were given lesser sentences, including one whose life sentence was commuted to a shorter unspecified term. The communique did not list the prisoners or specify the crimes they were convicted of. Morocco has traditionally granted leniency to several hundred prisoners every year, to mark Jan. 11, when France granted independence to Morocco in 1944.

Diouf leaves Morocco after talks on OIC

RABAT (R) — Senegalese President Abdou Diouf left the central Moroccan city of Fez Sunday after talks with King Hassan on an emergency Islamic mini-summit to be held in Senegal. Moroccan television reported. "We discussed the issue of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting which will be held in Dakar on Monday," Mr. Abdou Diouf told reporters. "The OIC meeting is very important. It will examine the problem of Palestinian (expellees) and the situation of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said. Mr. Diouf, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the OIC, called the emergency meeting two weeks ago. The Senegalese president, who expressed "satisfaction" with the three-day private visit, indicated relations between the two countries were back to normal after a period of strain. Morocco expressed irritation last year when Mr. Diouf hosted a summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Dakar attended by the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, a group fighting Morocco over the future of Western Sahara.

Turkey seizes ship with 10 tonnes of heroin

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish navy has captured a ship carrying more than 10 tonnes of heroin from Pakistan, Istanbul police chief Necdet Menzir said Monday. He called the haul "historic," saying U.S. narcotics agents had tracked the Panamanian-registered Lucky-S by satellite all the way from Karachi and through the Suez Canal. Turkish navy commandos boarded it and arrested the crew after it entered the Mediterranean. Mr. Menzir told Turkey's Anatolia news agency in the southwestern town of Dalaman. He said the Lucky-S was being escorted to a Turkish port and reporters would be shown its cargo. "We will open it together. You will witness history," he said. "It was a lot of hard work. The ship was seized after it emerged from the Suez Canal. The navy was given orders and Panama was informed," Mr. Menzir said. Security sources said the Lucky-S would probably be brought to a navy base near Marmaris.

British minister ends trade talks with Saudis

DUBAI (R) — Britain's Trade and Industry Secretary Michael Heseltine left Saudi Arabia Monday after four days of talks on increasing British trade with the Gulf Arab oil giant. The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Mr. Heseltine's departure without giving further details. Mr. Heseltine arrived in Saudi Arabia Friday and discussed with several ministers ways of promoting joint Saudi-British projects as well as removing obstacles to Saudi exports to Britain. Saudi Arabia is Britain's 11th largest export market, with exports totalling \$3.38 billion in 1991.

Ruin of mysterious new pyramid found on Giza

GIZA PLATEAU, Egypt (AP) — Egyptian excavators have unearthed the remains of a small Pyramid a few metres from the Great Pyramid of Pharaoh Cheops, perhaps built to ensure his soul would live forever.

"What a shock," said Zahi Hawass, general director of antiquities for the Pyramids and Sphinx. "If anybody had told me this time last year that we'd find another Pyramid at Giza, I'd have said they were crazy."

The surprise discovery brings to 96 the number of known Pyramids in Egypt.

The Pyramid is being called a cult or satellite Pyramid, dedicated to Cheops, who ruled Egypt 4,600 years ago. Egyptologists debate its function.

It takes a bit of imagination to picture what the new Pyramid looked like in its heyday. Three rows of massive blocks are all that's left of the Pyramid shape, which once stood on a base 20 metres on a side, or 400 square metres. Ruins of the interior consist of no more than a small ramp leading to a burial chamber. Scores of building blocks have been dug up from sand and rocky debris beside the base.

A smaller Pyramid, called by Egyptologists a Pyramidium, stood outside the entrance.

In ancient times, as today, the small Pyramid was dwarfed by Cheops', which blocks the horizon. Now standing 137 metres, the Great Pyramid has a base of 13 acres.

Mr. Hawass said there was

evidence that Cheops' architects planned to put the Pyramid somewhere else. They changed their minds when they discovered the Pyramid would stand in the way of a huge rampway for dragging massive building blocks up the unfinished Great Pyramid.

Architects placed the Pyramid at the southeastern side, facing both Cheops' Pyramid and those of his three queens.

"Architects for Cheops so meticulously planned every spot, this is the only place left for a Pyramid," Mr. Hawass said. "Yet we never knew it was here."

Experts debate the function of satellite Pyramids.

Mr. Hawass said some believe the cult Pyramids were built to hold the Pharaoh's body organs; to keep the crowns of lower and Upper Egypt as a sign of his kingship; to serve as a conduit for the king's soul to exit and accept gifts from believers; or, as a place of a ceremony of vitality, to prove the aging Pharaoh remained strong enough to rule.

He believes Cheops' cult Pyramid was used in a ceremony marking the completion of his Pyramid and the monuments around it.

"The king would go to the burial chamber, shed his robe and double crowns for a simple kilt and celebrate the moment," Mr. Hawass said.

After Cheops died, priests left offerings at the small Pyramid to keep the Pharaoh's name alive forever.

Sudan sends new complaint to U.N.

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has sent the United Nations a second complaint about Egyptian measures in the disputed Halaib triangle, the official news agency SUNA said Monday.

The complaint, sent to the U.N. Security Council chairman last Thursday, said that what it called Egyptian aggression could lead to armed conflict, the agency said.

Sudan reserved the right to do whatever necessary to defend its territorial integrity, it added.

Egypt has already dismissed the first complaint, which was sent last month. In it Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Ahmad Sahioul said nearly 600 Egyptian soldiers, including a brigadier general, invaded Halaib province on Dec. 9.

They built several camps and erected border signs denoting Egypt to the north and Sudan to the south, Mr. Sahioul said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr MUSA, in a letter circulated as a U.N. document, replied: "Sudan's allegations that 'Halaib Governorate' is Sudanese territory rests on no legal, historical or factual basis."

Mr. MUSA told parliament Sunday that a third party was provoking Khartoum and trying to destroy historic ties between the two neighbours. He was apparently referring to Iran.

Halaib, a potentially oil-rich desert area, has been a source of friction between the two countries since late last year, when Sudan granted an international oil firm an exploration concession in Halaib's territorial waters.

Sudan and Egypt agreed in February last year to set up a joint commission to resolve the dispute. It held its first session in Khartoum in March and its second in Cairo in October. A third was set for this month in the Sudanese capital.

SUNA said Egyptian opposition leader Ibrahim Shukri dismissed Egyptian-Sudanese relations at a meeting with Head of State Omar Hassan Al-Bashir in Khartoum Sunday.

Ukrainian president starts Israel visit

TEL AVIV (R) — Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk began a visit to Israel Monday aimed at improving relations between Ukrainians and Jews and forging a balanced Middle East policy.

Several senior cabinet ministers accompanied Mr. Kravchuk on his three-day trip which will focus on economic, cultural and scientific cooperation. He also plans to meet representatives of some 200,000 former Ukrainian Jews who are now Israelis.

"We are doing everything to put an end to the myth that Ukrainians are anti-Semites,"

"Viktor Nagaiuk, head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East Section, said before leaving Kiev.

Welcoming Mr. Kravchuk at Tel Aviv airport, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the visit "is particularly important because we are mutually interested in strengthening our cultural and economic relations."

Mr. Kravchuk made no arrival statement. He travelled to occupied Jerusalem for lunch with President Chaim Herzog.

During his visit, he will also meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other cabinet members.

Mr. Kravchuk's trip was arranged to fashion a balanced Middle East policy. It was carefully scheduled after a December visit to Egypt.

But a shadow over the visit is the fate of Ukrainian-born John Demjanjuk who was sentenced to death by an Israeli court in 1988 on charges of operating gas chambers at a Nazi camp in Poland during World War II.

Ukrainian nationalists have pressed Mr. Kravchuk to seek his release following evidence that the 72-year-old former American car worker may be a victim of mistaken identity.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Michael Vaillant
18:30	La Famille Roudan
19:00	News in French
19:15	Les Impres de Chénier
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Perfect Strangers
21:30	The Ottoman Dynasty
22:00	News in English
22:30	Prime Suspect

PRAYER TIMES

05:10	Fajr
06:32	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:43	Ohour
14:31	Asr
16:55	Maghreb
18:16	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 817740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637795
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresian Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623341

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691
Church of the Redeemer Tel. 638526

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will become moderate and stable and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers, while winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman	Min./Max. temp.
Amman 0/8
Aqaba 9/12
Deserts 0/10
Jordan Valley 7/15

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 7, Aqaba 11. Humidity readings: Amman 77 per cent, Aqaba 60 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Wael Khattabi	615648
Dr. Wael Khatib	610441
Dr. Rashid Zaytoon	886885
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab	683989
Firas pharmacy	661912
Pandora pharmacy	778336
Al Azma pharmacy	637025
Natirah pharmacy	625672
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsani pharmacy	637660
Natirah pharmacy	625672
Najib pharmacy	647632
DRIB:	
Dr. Amin Abu Eidah	244468
Alekh pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Issa Al Omari	501266
Khalil pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	75121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630521
Hotel Complaints	665800
Price Complaints	661176

HOSPITALS

Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636381
Company	08-53320
RJ Flight Information	08-53320
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53320

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30	Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
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DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Amman, New York (RJ)
10:30	Vienna (RJ)
10:50	Rome (RJ)
11:30	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:50	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:50	London (RJ)
12:15	Cairo (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Jeddah (RJ)
20:45	Damascus (RJ)
21:00	Aden (RJ)
21:15	Larnaca (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Uppermarket price in US per kg.

Apple	700 / 700
Banana	640 / 640
Banana (Mukammur)	640 / 640
Cabbage	350 / 300
Carrot	120 / 80
Cauliflower	250 / 200
Cucumber (large)	300 / 250
Cucumber (small)	650 / 500
Eggplant	280 / 220
Garlic	240 / 160
Grapefruit	400 / 450
Lemon	240 / 200
Marrow (large)	250 / 200
Marrow (small)	500 / 350
Onion (dry)	280 / 220

Queen meets Italian minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo at Al-Nadwa Palace Monday, following a meeting between Mr. Colombo and His Majesty King Hussein. The Queen thanked Mr. Colombo for his country's cooperation in Jordanian cultural, educational, economic and archaeological projects, and expressed her hope that such cooperation will continue into the future.

She emphasised the importance of these projects, especially those that develop training and employment opportunities for Jordanians, and for women in particular.

Mr. Colombo asked about two Noor Al-Husseini Foundation projects, the Salt Handicraft Training Centre and the Design and Dressmaking Institute, both of which are joint Jordanian-Italian projects. He was briefed on the progress of both projects, and invited him to tour the facilities the next time he visited Jordan.

Road repair deal signed with Sweden

AMMAN (J.T.) — A road maintenance and traffic safety group in Sweden Monday signed an agreement with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing for Swedish technical assistance to the Kingdom.

A statement from the ministry said that the Swedish group "Sveroad," a subsidiary to the national Swedish road administration in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing will hold a 14-week technical programme on road maintenance and will train Jordanian engineers.

The following will be covered in the programme, according to the agreement:

— Inventory of road maintenance problems in Jordan.

— Development of a five year maintenance plan for rural roads.

— Training of engineers and road maintenance staff.

— Creating a computerised standard drawing library on road signs.

— Improving work at the road signs factory and preparation of a new road sign manual.

The project, which is to be initiated on Feb. 1, will take four months to complete and is based on a grant of JD 150,000 from the Swedish agency for international technical and economic cooperation.



Swedes to offer assistance in road maintenance

tion.

The statement said that the programme aims at improving the conditions of roads and promoting the ministry's maintenance stations by providing them with up to date equipment. The Swedish group will also help the ministry's maintenance department in planning and organising maintenance operations on rural and agricultural roads according to the agreement which was signed by Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Esour and Sveroad's Vice President Hans Eriksson.

The statement said that the training course for engineers aims at improving efficiency and promoting skill through benefiting from Sweden's experiences in this field. The programme, it added, will help reduce the cost of road maintenance and improve road safety standards.

The cost of the programme will be covered under a technical cooperation programme undertaken by the Swedish Agency and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Precautions taken against locust invasion

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Upon Jordan's initiative, the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is holding an emergency meeting in Cairo Thursday to discuss means of combating swarms of locust reported to have invaded western areas of Saudi Arabia.

Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Jordan will be taking part in the one-day emergency meeting which would chart a plan for a collective action against the common danger, said Dr. Hani Haddadin, assistant secretary general of the Ministry of Agriculture.

"The reported 21 swarms of locusts are far off from Jordan's borders and are in no immediate danger to the Kingdom. They are located south of Jeddah and extend as far south as Jizan along the coast of the Red Sea," said Dr. Haddadin who will be flying to Cairo Wednesday to represent Jordan at the meeting.

He told the Jordan Times that the Cairo agenda covers the general locust situation, forecasts about locust movements in the region, short-term counter-



Jordan prepares for possible invasion

strategies, regional coordination to combat the pest and assessment of current control measures and immediate assistance required to deal with the situation.

Although Jordan is in no danger at present, especially in view of the cold weather, the Kingdom took the initiative as a precautionary measure to seek coordination among the Red Sea countries in dealing with any locust invasion, said Dr. Haddadin.

Indeed, the Ministry of Agriculture, working hand-in-hand with the Armed Forces, the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Public Security and the border police force, has set up teams to be involved in the fight against the locusts should they appear on Jordanian territory, noted Dr. Haddadin.

Jordan last witnessed isolated swarms of locust in the south eastern desert close to the border with Saudi Arabia in 1989. The Kingdom has since acquired

essential equipment and prepared contingency plans to deal with any danger of this kind, according to Ministry of Agriculture officials.

A total of 14 countries including Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq along with the Red Sea states are grouped in the special commission for controlling the desert locust in the near east, but only those directly involved in the present locust situation will be attending the Cairo meeting, Dr. Haddadin pointed out.

He said that the commission, affiliated to FAO, was founded in 1965 to carry out all possible measures to control plagues of the desert locust within the Middle East and to reduce crop damage.

The Ministry of Agriculture Dr. Haddadin said, has a ready made plan to deal with any emergency, and will coordinate matters in this concern with the neighbouring countries. He reaffirmed reports that Jordan has been in direct contact with the Saudi authorities over the past month and has set up an operations room to monitor locust swarms which would be sprayed with pesticides from the air and by land equipment.

Bread seminar in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — A one day seminar on improving the bread industry in Jordan opened in Irbid Monday.

The U.S. Wheat Associates, which organised a similar seminar in Amman earlier this month, organised the meeting in Irbid in cooperation with the General Union of Bakeries Owners in the Irbid governorate. A report prepared by the Irbid governor's office said that the governorate's population, estimated at 391,000, consumes more than 1.185 million loaves of bread a day.

There are now 331 bakeries in the governorate and they have been called on to improve the bread industry by adhering to the Ministry of Supply's standards and specifications, stated the report.

He said complaints have been made by the public about the poor quality of bread and the difference in baking between one bakery and another. There is an need, urgent for bakery owners to...

benefit from the experience of the Americans in cooperation with the governorate, Mr. Abbadi said.

Mr. Jim Turner, who represented the U.S. ambassador at the opening ceremony, noted that the seminar was the fruit of cooperation between the Ministry of Supply and the U.S. wheat associates. He expressed hope that cooperation would continue.

U.S. Wheat Associates adviser, Dr. Hamzeb Abdul Aflm, viewed in a working paper, the types of wheat produced by different countries, methods adopted by mills for grinding it, and its use in the bread industry. The quality of bread, he noted, largely depends on the work of mills but cooperation among those involved in the bread industry was imperative if the good quality bread is to be produced.

Irbid Mayor Sami Irsheidat was among the personalities attending the seminar held at the Irbid Chamber of Commerce.

Ensour stresses importance of commerce

TAFLEH (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour said Monday that the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce should shoulder a serious responsibility towards the Jordanian national economy and in ensuring food security for Jordanians.

Addressing a meeting organised by the federation and attended by federation president Mohammad Asfour, the minister said that the commercial sector in Jordan was important because it is considered responsible for at least 12 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The commercial sector was also instrumental in providing a surplus in the country's fiscal budget and helped to replenish the country's hard currency reserves in the past year, noted the minister.

The minister urged the federation to speed up work on legislation of commercial activities and a new law on commercial chambers of commerce in Jordan.

Several speakers including Mr.



Abdullah Ensour

Asfour discussed the commercial situation in Jordan, the consumer tax, and the federation's plans for promoting the national economy.

Merchants taking part in the meeting presented the minister with a number of requests concerning trade and the consumer tax as well as matters related to the work of the customs offices.

Weather conditions expected to improve

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following the snow that hit Jordan Sunday and Monday, the country is due for some relief according to the Department of Meteorology. But the Department of Civil Defence (CDD) Monday afternoon issued a frost warning. It said that frost was expected along roads in all areas, especially at night and in the early morning hours due to freezing temperatures. The department advised the public should stay indoors while there is frost on the ground, except in emergencies.

The department said that temperatures are expected to drop to zero degrees Celsius and rise to no more than 8 degrees during the day. Moderate and clear skies were expected through Friday accompanied by a gradual rise in temperature.

Snow which fell on Amman's suburbs and rural areas was reported to have been cleared from the roads by Monday evening. The CDD which was involved in some road clearing operations did not report any casualties resulting from the severe weather conditions.

Report from various governo-



Roads were quickly cleared when snow fell

rates said that operation rooms were on alert providing emergency services with the help of CDD branches in cooperation with municipalities, public security offices and the water authority.

The snow in Amman and other areas forced the Ministry of Education Monday to delay for

two hours Tawjihi examinations but an announcement Monday evening said no change in the timetable for Tuesday was planned.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab human rights charter to be discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Human Rights Organisation (AHRO) is organising a seminar at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman on Jan. 21 to pave the ground for a proposed Arab human rights charter. His Majesty King Hussein in a recent nation wide address called for such a charter and the seminar will be in response to that call, according to AHRO sources. In his Nov. 23 address at the graduation ceremony of officers of the Royal Staff and Command College, the King called on Arab revolutionaries to rise up against the Arab status quo and "join Jordan in working towards a new Arab order which champions human rights, democracy and one that would lift us out of the ashes of inaction into a burning light that would end darkness of the long Arab night," he said. The Amman branch of the AHRO which is sponsoring the meeting said that Upper House members Ahmad Obeidat and Amin Shugair as well as Dr. Labih Qamhawi will be delivering addresses at the meeting to which more than 40 political personalities from Jordan have been invited.

Increase in fruit and vegetable exports registered

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of fresh fruits and vegetables to foreign markets in December has mounted to 26,000 tonnes estimated at about JD 6.2 million. A statistical report by the Agricultural Marketing Organisation said most of the exports went to Lebanon, which was followed by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The report said a rise was witnessed in Jordan's exports of tomatoes and mandarin in December 1992 when compared to the same month in 1991.

NAF grants JD 3,500 to Al Koura district

DEIR ABEE SAEED (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) has approved granting JD 3,542 to 183 cases in Al Koura district as part of its endeavours to fight poverty in the district. Director of NAF office in the district Mohammad Al Shouha said 1,028 of the district's needy families are receiving a total of JD 20,092 as monthly assistance from the fund. NAF, he said, has also helped 12 families start their own income-generating projects by granting them JD 12,800. The fund has previously helped in establishing 291 similar projects worth JD 35,750, he said, adding that 10 per cent of the district's population are receiving direct assistance from the fund. As part of the fund's plans to provide care for the handicapped, Mr. Shouha said, it established a school for retarded and deaf students.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Jordanian artist Salam Kanaan at Riwaq Al Balqa Gallery for fine arts, Al Fuhels City.

FILM

- French film entitled "Paris as we see it" at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

American group urged to paint true picture of region

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat Monday urged a team representing the Unitarian Association of the Congregations in the United States to help convey to the American public the true picture about the situation in the Middle East and contribute towards settling the Middle East conflict.

He told the visiting team that Jordan seeks to end the distorted picture about the situation and help defuse the explosive situation. It is regrettable to see Israel escalating tension in the region through its illegal practices and stalling the implementation of U.N. resolutions, despite the lapse of more than one year since the start of the Middle East peace

talks, said Dr. Arabiyat.

Israel, he said, was exploiting the peace negotiations for its own purposes and has not yet taken a single step towards achieving the objectives of these negotiations and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

Dr. Arabiyat also outlined Jordan's parliamentary rule and the democratic life in the country.

He stressed that Jordan was committed towards safeguarding public freedom and democracy in line with the national charter and is going ahead towards enhancing political pluralism in the country. The Washington-based group who were invited here by the Foreign Ministry plans to meet with other Jordanian government officials during their stay.

Jordan's hopes described as realistic

(Continued from page 1)

cannot afford to let Jordan down.

The diplomat also pointed out that the World Bank itself had taken the lead in convening the meeting.

The Paris meeting was first scheduled to be held in November last year. Officials said "technical" reasons prompted the delay. One official suggested that the IMF was ensuring that Jordan implemented "certain provisions in the (economic restructuring)

programme before the donors met."

Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meeting. The team will include Planning Minister Ziyad Faris and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michel Marto.

The delegation was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday or Tuesday to prepare strategy for the Paris conference, officials said.

Mediators push Serbs to drop demand

(Continued from page 1)

Addressing an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Mr. Izetbegovic said Bosnian Muslims would never allow an unjust peace to be imposed upon them.

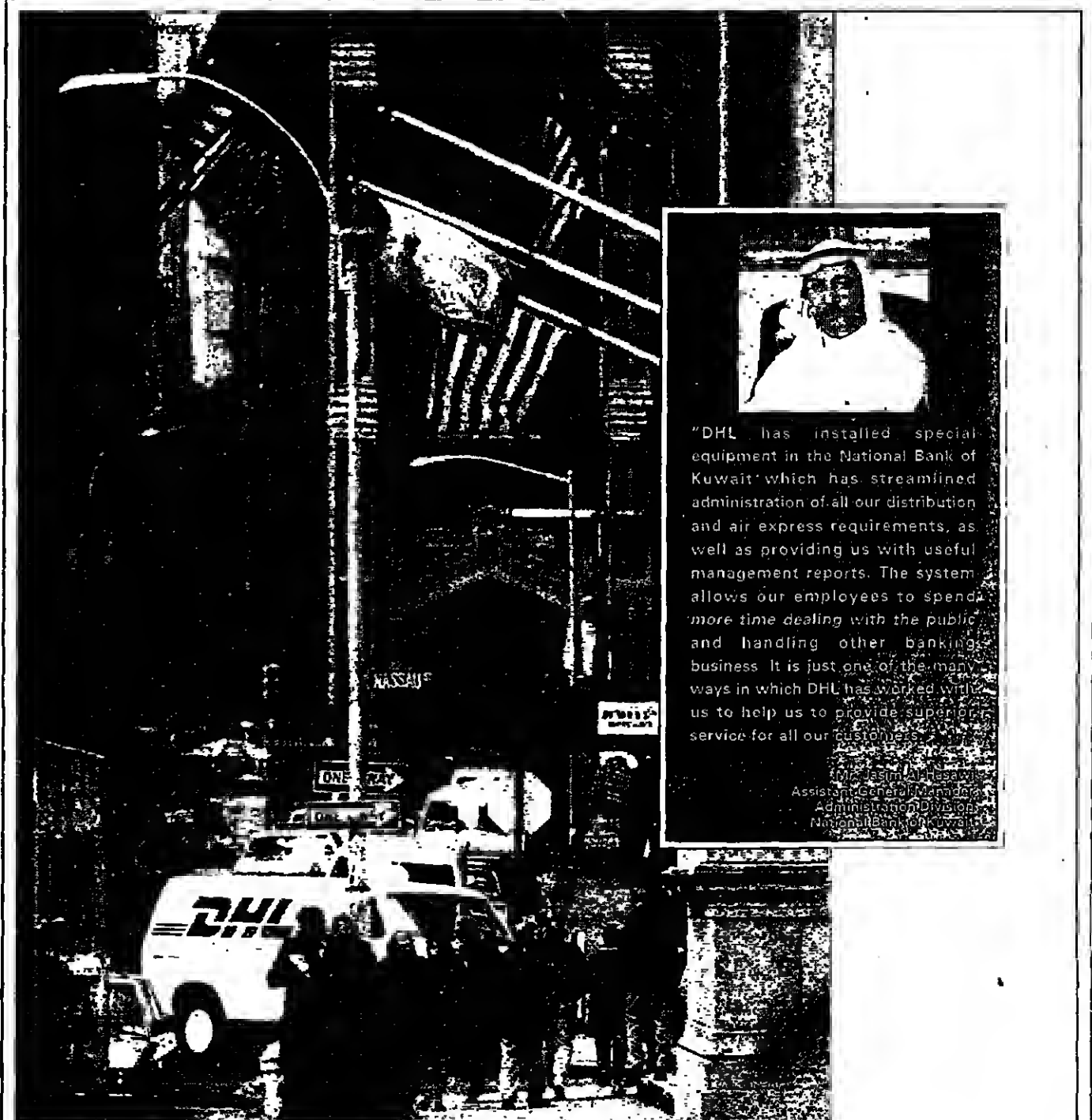
"I arrived here between two sessions of the Geneva conference which has failed to bring peace to our country," he said. "It is being used by aggressors only as a cover for continuing aggression against Muslims and other citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The session of the OIC, which groups 51 Islamic states and organisations, was called to discuss the fate of more than 400 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon by Israel.

But the killing of Bosnia's Muslim deputy premier, Hakija Turajlic, by Serb gunmen on Friday and reports of mass rape and murder of Bosnian Muslims by Serbs added the Balkan crisis to the agenda.

At the OIC meeting, its secretary-general, Hamid Al Ghabid of Niger, called for armed intervention to protect Bosnian Muslims from attacks by Serbs. He said the United Nations must take action to end Serbian attacks and relieve beleaguered Sarajevo.

"It is quite obvious that the use of force has now become an urgent and unavoidable necessity if one really wants to end the killings in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Mr. Ghabid said.



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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Act of cruelty

IT WAS CHAIM WEIZMANN who said, shortly before he became the first president of Israel: "I am certain that the world will judge the Jewish state by the way we treat the Arabs (of Palestine)."

As a matter of fact, the world has shown an extraordinary tolerance with regard to Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and, as a result, successive Israeli governments have become more and more careless of international opinion and of Israel's legal obligations towards the Palestinians under their control. But even by their own standards Israel's expulsion in late December of more than 400 Palestinians, in disregard of international law and even of Israel's own laws, marked a dangerous escalation. Besides bringing down on prime minister Rabin's government an unprecedented torrent of condemnation from the United Nations Security Council, the European Community and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the move put in jeopardy the already struggling peace talks between Arab and Israeli negotiating teams and brought into closer harmony the opposing wings of the Palestinian resistance movement.

None of this can serve the true interests of Israel. In the long run the expulsions are likely to do more damage to Israel than anything since the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, not only because of the brutal way in which they were carried out, with the Palestinians tied up and blindfolded for a day and a night before being dumped on a bare hillside in freezing weather, but because they exposed the Israeli government's almost ostentatious contempt for the law. If Rabin's plot had not been frustrated by watchful Israeli human rights activists, the Palestinians would have been spirited over the border before anyone knew what was happening, without charge or trial or the slightest pretence of legal process. Nor did Israel's legal establishment do anything to rescue the government's reputation. On the contrary, the Supreme Court, instead of reminding the government of its obligations, imposed a delay of only a few hours before approving the expulsions, making it clear (not for the first time) that in matters involving Israel's sacred cow of "security" the Court's supposed independence from government influence is a fiction.

As far as Israel's international standing is concerned, the heartless cruelty of the deportations may prove even more damaging than their lawlessness. Quite apart from the mistakes made and later (when it was too late) admitted by the Israelis in selecting their victims and the surreptitious way in which they were snatched from their homes, the plight of the men, and their courage and resourcefulness when they found themselves stranded in a kind of limbo north of the Israeli border, made a vivid impression on the millions of people all over the world who saw them on their television screens over the holiday season.

Deportation is an extreme and inhuman punishment. At the Nuremberg Trials it was classified as a war crime and it has been outlawed, like all forms of collective punishment, by various international agreements to which Israel is a party, notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 4th Geneva Convention. All the signatories to the Convention are legally obliged both to observe the terms of the Convention themselves and to ensure that other signatories do the same. The United States, Britain and all other Western governments are therefore under an obligation to see that Israel abstains from all proscribed actions, such as the deportation of Palestinians whose homes are in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, under any circumstances. Until the U.S. and European governments initiate action to bring about the return of the deportees, their people cannot avoid a share of the responsibility for their fate — Middle East International.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily expressed its belief that the coming U.S. administration would not be willing to ensure the continuation of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. The first thing Mr. Clinton will do, said the paper, is to get rid of the negotiations dossier and wash his hands of anything to do with the Arab-Israeli peace talks. The paper said that the Arabs would certainly demand a fulfilment of the promises Mr. Bush had made as president, but Mr. Clinton would answer that he can only be held responsible for his own promises, said the paper. Mr. Clinton would never be responsible for carrying out promises made by his predecessor, as mere promises are not binding for the new president. The paper said that the Arabs can not force Mr. Clinton to make Israel do something it refuses or ask for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions issued over the past three decades.

A COLUMNIST in AL RA'I daily referred to a meeting being held in Cairo Monday between the ministers of Arab countries as important, since it was the first meeting that convenes upon Palestine's request and is called to discuss the question of the Palestinians evicted from their land. Mohammad Kharroub said that the meeting, which will examine Israel's refusal to carry out Resolution 799 on the repatriation of the 400 Palestinians, has its significance since it is solely dedicated to discussing Palestinian affairs, a move considered the first since the Gulf crisis of 1990. The writer said that this meeting could pave the ground for reestablishing solidarity among the Arab countries, including the Gulf states, and a reconciliation among its leaders. The meeting is also important because it comes on the eve of Mr. Bush's departure from the White House and the arrival of a president who does not place Iraq on top of America's priorities, the writer added. He said that the meeting comes at a time when the Gulf states have started to realise that their isolation from the rest of the Arab World could give Iran the chance for further interference in their own affairs. Iran's recent actions have no doubt prompted the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to move closer to the other Arab countries and the meeting in Cairo is a good chance for forging the solidarity they are seeking at this moment, said the writer. He said that perhaps the Arab foreign ministers would be able to chart a plan that would ensure the minimum level of coordination among the Arab states in the face of the looming dangers.

The View from Fourth Circle

The marshmallow coalition and the second millennium

By Rami G. Khouri

It will take many years or decades for history to judge the real significance of the phenomenon of the Iraqi leadership and President Saddam Hussein. Is the Iraqi leadership, as the West and some Middle Eastern western appendages believe, the very personification of evil, the embodiment of a tendency to inhuman aggression that is manifested in the form of perverse national leaders every few decades (i.e. Stalin, Hitler, et al.)? Is it, as some in the West proclaim, a fountainhead of demented and distorted political morality that appeals to similar sentiments that are inherent in this region of exotic Arabs inclined to excess, romanticism, violence, and authoritarianism?

Or, is it something quite different from this wild and racist western perception? Is Iraq and its leadership scaring the West and western appendages in this region because it represents a haunting historical revenge? Iraq and its leadership are merely the logical consequence of modern Middle Eastern history. The anger, defiance, and insistence on self-reliance and national capacity-building in the military field that characterise Iraq are the inevitable antidote to the last century of western exploitation of Iraq's strategic location and resources.

The thing that distinguishes Iraq from most of the rest of the Arab World is that it is the only country today that has the combination of human, mineral, financial, land, and water resources to develop into a strong and viable state. Other Arab countries have some of these resources, but no one country has all of them in the same balanced proportions as Iraq. It was probably inevitable that at some point in modern history, a combination of factors would prompt Iraq to marshal its resources in a bid to revive indigenous Arab pride and check the bitter legacy of foreign interference.

(It is telling to recall that the only other Arab countries that come close to Iraq in terms of national material and human resources — Syria, Egypt, and Algeria — all also played a significant anti-imperial, anti-colonial, and anti-western role during this century. At one time or another, each of them made a bid to lead the anti-imperial sentiments that defined most of the people of this region. Islamic but non-Arab Iran also falls into this category of potentially powerful and viable Middle Eastern states that challenge the West, and usually get beaten back for their insubordination.)

I should be clear here that I am not a fan of the Iraqi brand of political morality. I do not wish to live in a political system like Iraq's, I do not condone the human rights violations the Baghdad government is accused of, and I have consistently spoken out, clearly and in public, against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, even in the early days of the conflict when this was not a popular position to take around here. What I think or what western politicians think about Iraq is really pretty irrelevant, however, if it remains in the realm of political rhetoric.

But, when sentiments about Iraq drive a brand of contemporary political frothing on the part of major western leaders, and result in wars of technological barbarism reminiscent of European and Asiatic savagery in this area in the first half of the second millennium (the Crusades, Genghis Khan, Tamarlane), we are compelled to address the question of the nature of the Iraqi leadership and the hysterical response it elicits from otherwise largely rational western politicians.

The important question that intrudes me today — and that I believe will determine the history of this region well into the next century and the early decades of the third millennium — is a simple one: is the Iraqi leadership a cause or a consequence of Middle Eastern violence, aggression, injustice, human suffering, national confusion, militarism, and prolonged western military

and political interference in this region?

The prevalent western ideological impulse towards Marshmallow Diplomacy — its fluffy, soft and white on the outside, but greasy, messy and nutritionally bad for you on the inside, and too much of it in concentrated doses will make you throw up — tries to force us to join the anti-Baghdad bandwagon and to concentrate all our diplomatic and economic efforts on overthrowing Saddam Hussein. Nice try, but not good enough. Our criticisms of the Iraqi political culture remain valid, but our criticisms of western political culture are much stronger, because they are much older.

Most people in this region return to the question I raised above: Is Saddam Hussein a cause or a symptom of our regional problems and legacy of modern turmoil? Why can't we discuss, assess and judge Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi leadership with the same sort of dispassionate rationality that we use to discuss, say, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and the Kuwaiti leadership, or the leaderships in Sudan or Mauritania, or Tunisia, or any of the many other Arab leaderships whose fundamental dynamics of incumbency and longevity essentially mirror the same forces of self-imposed, non-accountable governance that characterise the leadership in Baghdad?

"When sentiments about Iraq drive a brand of contemporary political frothing on the part of major western leaders, and result in wars of technological barbarism reminiscent of European and Asian savagery in this area in the first half of the second millennium, we are compelled to address the question of the nature of the Iraqi leadership and the hysterical response it elicits from otherwise largely rational western politicians."

These questions are increasingly relevant today in view of the renewed tension and confrontation between the United States and its North Atlantic ideological sidekicks, on the one hand, and Iraq, on the other. As the United States applies renewed pressure on Iraq to comply with relevant U.N. resolutions and respect the U.S.-imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq, most of the people in this region, and I would think in much of rest of the world, respond with the following questions:

— Why does the United States, along with perpetually outraged, always obedient, and forever growing Great Britain, lead such a determined effort for compliance with U.N. resolutions in Iraq but not in other parts of the Middle East? Do they think that we are so stupid, weak, desperate or bludgeoned by history that we will either miss or forgive their mounting track record of double standards and duplicity?

— By what standards does the suffering of innocent civilians in Iraq elicit international protection but the wholesale savagery against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina does not?

The Iraqi missile crisis — a dramatic comedy of errors

By Godfrey Jansen

The false, fabricated Iraqi missile "crisis" of January 1993 could have a lasting, beneficial effect because it provided practical proof that the Dramatic Equivalent of War (DEW) can work to bring about a peaceful resolution of a war-threatening situation.

It was the American psychologist, William James (brother of the novelist Henry) who, early in this century, first launched the idea of an equivalent or alternative to war — some form of activity which would act as an outlet or safety valve for humanity's natural aggressiveness. Something on the lines of the DEW emerged during the closing stages of the Vietnam war when the U.S. was having difficulty in winding it down. An American public figure suggested that the U.S. should simply announce that it had won the war and, consequently, was packing up and going home. That would have been a declamatory equivalent of war.

The outline scenario of a full-blown DEW, as exemplified during the past fortnight, is for country A, which wants to humiliate country B and which also has complete control of the sources of military information in a particular situation (this is absolutely essential for DEW) to declare that it is being menaced by B, without providing any factual proof thereof. This, of course, will be denied by country B, but A builds up the "menace" and ultimately gives an ultimatum to B to do something humiliating

but which no one can observe or verify. After a few days, A announces that, under the threat of the ultimatum, B has given in and complied; which, of course, B denies. So in the end, thanks to this now-you-see-it-now-you-don't manoeuvre, everybody is happy. A says B is humiliated and draws political advantage therefrom; B says it has not been humiliated and lives to fight or threaten another day.

This thesis or scenario fits into the present crisis and explains it because of these facts: It was a handful of missiles, four or five batteries, that were at the heart of the whole affair; they were already in the no-fly zone instituted last August and had not been activated against the western planes regularly overflying the zone since then; perhaps one new battery was brought south across the 32nd parallel in the past fortnight. Missiles, such as the aged, almost obsolescent, Sam-2s and Sam-3s, in this case, are usually moved around to make them less vulnerable to aerial attack and it was a new pattern of Iraqi positioning that was said to be "menacing" — for example, a rectangular formation that would mean that several missiles could target a single plane simultaneously. Also, no claim was made that during the last four months the batteries had switched on their targeting radar and locked onto western planes. Because of this established co-existence between planes and

missiles, the U.S. Defence Secretary dismissed the capabilities of the Sams when the story of their positioning was broken on January 5th; the initial reaction to the story of the "menace" from General Colin Powell, Chief of the U.S. General Staff, was a laconic, "So what?"

Because of the shaky legal basis of the no-fly zone, unsupported by any U.N. resolution, and, at best, based on "unwritten, customary international law" — whatever that might mean — the western ultimatum was a very cautious document. It did not ask for the missiles to be removed or sent north of the 32nd parallel; how could this be asked for when they had been positioned, unquestioned and unopposed, south of the parallel for four months. All that the ultimatum demanded was that they should "return to their former positions."

That they have now been moved seems clear though no one has the ability to verify that and the U.S. cannot say where they are because, it says, observation has been hampered by cloud cover, but not so hampered as to render it impossible to say that the missiles "are no longer in a menacing posture." On that vague, unverifiable basis, the U.S. cries "victory." "Saddam blinked." And the Iraqis, who, naturally will not say where the missiles now are, proclaim, "No climb down, no blink," as they did officially on January 10th.

It is to the advantage of both

sides to keep up the pretence that there was a crisis, now happily resolved. For the Iraqis, the crisis helped maintain the image of a brave David standing up to the bullying American Goliath. Because of which, perhaps, there has been no overt Arab support for the western ultimatum — except from Kuwait. Even Saudi Arabia, which allowed the western air forces to use its airfields — the U.S. units were those that just stayed on after "Desert Storm" — did not speak out in favour of action against Iraq. The crisis has also served to distract Iraqi public opinion from a worsening economic situation inside the country.

The initiator of this factually non-existent crisis was the White House. What did George Bush hope to gain from it? Two things, both of which he achieved. He departs not as totally humiliated, as before, by leaving power with his personal enemy, Saddam Hussein, still in position: Mr. Bush can at least claim that he made the Iraqi climb down, "blink" once more. Also, if Bill Clinton, when he takes office, were to change Mr. Bush's policy of personal antagonism towards Iraq, that would revive accusations that "Desert Storm" was a strategic failure. Because this present crisis has come, or was made to manifest itself, at the very end of the transition period, and given Mr. Clinton's decent, gentlemanly, policy of not intrud-

ing on Mr. Bush's banding of foreign affairs as long as he remains president, Mr. Clinton has been manoeuvred into supporting Mr. Bush's handling of the crisis, thus guaranteeing a continuation of the Bush policy towards Iraq.

But that may not long endure when Mr. Clinton, facing the reality of power, realises that there is nothing to gain from continuing hostility towards Iraq which is no way threatens any American national interest.

LETTERS

Inadvertent omission

To the Editor:

In the January 7/8 issue, the Jordan Times reported on the Jordanian mosaics and folk dresses currently at exhibit at Sotheby's in London.

The report failed to mention that the displayed costumes are part of my private collection of Jordanian and Palestinian costumes and accessories.

This lack of recognition of my efforts in collecting and documenting our heritage for the last 35 years has been ongoing in the Jordanian media ever since I made the collection available to represent our country on an international scale.

The Kavar collection was first exhibited in Cologne, Germany, in 1987 and for two years was exhibited in German cities including Munich, Berlin, and Hamburg. It was also exhibited in Japan, Singapore, the United Kingdom (Liverpool), Denmark, Sweden and Iceland.

It is surprising how this fully documented collection of costumes, textiles, rugs and artifacts, which has not only received recognition as one of the largest private collections in the Arab World but in the world as a whole, remains unrecognized in its own homeland.

Although, through the years, I have received unsurpassed support from the Ministry of Tourism and many concerned individuals, the media has consistently overlooked my personal undertakings, which spring solely from my sense of identity and national pride.

On one occasion, I complained to the Petra news agency, which, together with the Ministry of Information, is largely responsible for this lack of accurate reporting, and I was told: "It is not our job to promote the business of private citizens."

I would like to clearly state that my work is not a "business." I simply have a passion for my culture, and I found in collecting a way to document our history and art and preserve it for future generations.

After years of roaming Europe and Asia, the collection, apart from what is currently exhibited in London, is back in Amman. The costumes and artifacts that proudly represented our nation to hundreds of thousands of people worldwide arrived in boxes unacknowledged. I am now reunited with my collection, but sadly, we are both drained and depleted of energy. My efforts and the efforts of our ancestors who created this collection cannot go on without the appropriate credit and appreciation.

Widad Kavar,
Amman.

Editor's note: Mrs. Kavar has every right to complain about not being given due credit for her contribution. We would like to assure her though that the regrettable omission of her name in the said report happened of inadvertently.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

هكذا في الامم

UAE revives consultation council

ABU DHABI (R) — The government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Monday approved reviving the federal consultative council, an appointed advisory body with members from all seven emirates.

The official Emirates News Agency (WAM) said the decision was taken at a meeting of the cabinet, bringing the UAE back into line with Gulf Arab neighbours which have appointed councils to advise their rulers and wider representation. Kuwait is the only Gulf Arab state with an elected parliament.

The federal consultative council last met in July 1991.

The 18-month lapse in recalling it was widely attributed to delays by some of the emirates in naming their representatives.

The Emirates News Agency did not name council members but officials said the names were likely to be published once the decree reviving the council is signed by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

Officials said last month 27 new members would be appointed to the 40-man council, which was formed in 1972. They were most-

ly younger business and community leaders, they added.

Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the two biggest emirates, appoint eight members each. Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah name six members each while Ajman, Fujairah and Umm Al Quwain have four seats each.

Saudi Arabia has appointed a speaker for its consultative council but has yet to name its members.

Bahrain named a council last month and Oman and Qatar already have councils of their own.

King holds talks with Colombo

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians last month would be resolved soon.

"Italy has contributed to the peace process and we hope it will move again," he said.

Rome has been mentioned as a possible venue for Arab-Israeli peace talks, both bilateral and multilateral, and Italian government leaders have expressed readiness to host the talks. Ambassador Bertini reiterated the position Monday, adding that Italy believes that a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict should be based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Italy hosted a conference on water resources in the Mediterranean region in October and is organising a similar conference on the environment in the spring of 1993.

Mr. Colombo, on his first visit to Jordan, also held talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Monday.

Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Colombo and Basel Jaradneh, the Jordanian finance minister, signed an agreement under which Jordan's repayment of \$19 million of debts due to Italy until mid-1993 was rescheduled.

The agreement was part of Jordan's overall debt rescheduling accord reached with the Paris Club of government creditors last year.

The agreement lowers interest rates, provides for repayment of \$12 million in commercial debts over a six-year period beginning in 2001, and repayment of about \$7 million in official debts over a nine-year period beginning in 2003.

An Italian spokesman, briefing

reporters on Mr. Colombo's visit to Jordan, said Italy was the fifth largest exporter to Jordan, which imported Italian products worth \$160 million in 1992. Jordan's exports to Italy amounted to \$50 million in 1992, the spokesman said.

On general economic cooperation with Jordan, the spokesman

said Italy had opened two distinct lines of credit to the Kingdom: One worth \$30 million in commodity exports and the other \$50 million in direct development assistance.

Italian technical aid to Jordan includes training of technicians in various fields as well as extending help in antiquities and tourism.

Iraqis'

(Continued from page 1)

A U.N. spokeswoman said the Security Council was to hold closed-door consultation on the Iraqi incursions late Monday.

The United States, Britain, France and Russia lodged protests at the United Nations over Sunday's incursion.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said he hoped the Security Council would respond sternly to Iraq's incursions.

Diplomats in Kuwait described both incidents as blatant attempts by Iraq to weaken the Western-backed campaign to isolate Baghdad internationally following the Gulf war.

The unarmed UNIKOM force is unable to physically intervene under its mandate. Reporters are barred from entering the area.

Kuwait's government held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the incursions. A spokesman said in a statement the cabinet stressed that Kuwait was going through a critical phase "which needs us to focus all efforts to strengthen the security of the country."

The Iraqis crossed the border Sunday barely 24 hours after the United States said Baghdad appeared to have complied with a U.N. ultimatum to withdraw missiles from the Western allies' "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq.

In Baghdad, Iraqi Defence Minister Ali Hassan Al Majeed said Iraq was determined to free itself of "no-fly" zones and other curbs imposed on its territory by the West since the war.

Mr. Majeed pledged to extend "full national sovereignty over all of our land, skies and waters."

"Our confidence is high in the capability of our fighters ... to confront all phases of conspiracy and military aggression ... until the Americans and the disappointed hirelings following their path yield to our just demands," said Mr. Majeed.

Iraq has denied that it backed down in last week's crisis with the West over the missile deployments in the south, although Washington says the missile concentrations that rang American alarm bells were dispersed.

At the U.N., Mr. Hamdoun had also been asked about a ban announced by Baghdad last week on flights into Iraq by U.N. aircraft bringing weapons inspection teams and other U.N. personnel.

Baghdad said they should use Iraqi aircraft, barred from flying abroad under Gulf war sanctions, or travel overland.

"Iraq has been cooperating with the UNIKOM for some time on a plan to evacuate the Iraqi property from the demilitarised zone," Mr. Hamdoun said.

"The chief of the UNIKOM approved that agreement on Dec. 29, that Iraq finishes up with this job of evacuating the material before the deadline that was set on Jan. 15."

Denying the council president had given him any sort of warning, he said: "There was no threat to do something."

Referring to UNIKOM, he added: "There were probably just recently some misunderstandings from their part."

He said no Iraqi military personnel were involved, adding: "All those are civilian workers. They have been hired by a contractor. There are no military people with them."

Regarding the reported removal of the zone of Iraqi silk-worm missiles, he said he did not specifically discuss that with the council president, though such missiles were not prohibited under a Security Council resolution calling for the scrapping of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction. The resolution covers only missiles with a range of 150 kilometres or more.

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Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

failed to comply.

The Palestinian proposal calls for immediate enforcement of sanctions against Israel and maintains that the crisis, if not resolved, would hurt the peace negotiations, diplomats said.

The sources said that after the meeting a committee would be formed to draft the final statement based on the two proposals.

"The Arab decision is expected to be strong and firm. The minimum the Arabs will demand from the United Nations is a quick mechanism and a timetable to force Israel to take the expellees back as soon as possible," one senior diplomat said.

"There will be no compromise on the deportees issue. Israel has to take them back," the diplomat added.

Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official in charge of foreign affairs, said the Palestinians would not resume talks with Israel until the evictees were home.

"Everything depends on the results of the return of the (evictees)," Mr. Kaddoumi told reporters. "It is impossible for the Palestinian delegation to take part in these negotiations while the evictees remain in exile."

The official Syrian newspaper Tishreen said Monday that Arab-Israeli peace talks might collapse unless real pressure was put on Israel.

But Arab diplomats doubted the ministers would call for a boycott of the peace talks. Egyptian officials say the next round is scheduled Feb. 20 in Washington. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat recently told a French magazine he remains committed to peace negotiations but wants the evictees back home before they're resumed.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, for the evictees spokesman, told reporters in Lebanon Monday: "We appeal to the Arab foreign ministers to take a more serious stand this time and come out with a clear agreement to withdraw their delegates from peace negotiations."

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Sabatini advances; world's No. 870 upsets sixth seed

SYDNEY (AP) — Michael Tebbutt, an amateur ranked 870th in the world, scored his biggest-ever victory by outlasting sixth-seeded Sergei Bruguera 6-7 (0-7), 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 in the first round of the New South Wales Open tennis tournament Monday.

Earlier, top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini overcame bouts of inconsistency to beat Japan's Kimiko Date 7-5, 6-2 in the women's draw. No. 8 Zina Garrison-Jackson was ousted by Sabine Appelmans of Belgium 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

Mary Joe Fernandez, the No. 3 seed, was forced to withdraw from singles in the warmup for the Australian Open, a two-week Grand Slam event that opens next Monday in Melbourne.

Organisers said Fernandez, ranked sixth in the world, has not recovered from a bout of the flu contracted a week earlier at the Hopman Cup in Perth. She tentatively remains in the doubles draw here, with her first match scheduled later in the week.

The top Americans playing here, third-seeded Jennifer Capriati among the women and top-seeded Pete Sampras in the men's draw, were to play their opening matches Tuesday.

Tebbutt, cheered by family and friends, pounded a strong serve and two-fisted groundstrokes that were too much for Bruguera, a Spaniard who also in the first round last week in Adelaide.

He said he'll carry his "nothing to lose" attitude against his next opponent.

"I'm not sure who I play, but I'm sure he's ranked above me."



Gabriela Sabatini

Tebbutt laughed.

Fourth-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, trying to regain the confidence that saw him shoot up into the top 10 last year before slumping at the end of the season, played through a lapse to beat Sweden's Jan Apell 6-2, 7-5.

"After the U.S. Open, I had a very bad patch," he said. "I feel good now. I've a bit of a break."

Sabatini, the defending champion, cruised almost effortlessly through the first four games against a very tight Date on a sun-drenched centre court at the White City complex near downtown Sydney.

But the top-ranked Japanese

woman fought back from 15-40 in the next game to start a streak that put her ahead 5-4.

Sabatini attributed her lapse to Date finally playing up her capabilities.

"I knew the match would be hard," the third-ranked Sabatini said. "She started to hit the ball better and attack more. It's good to start with a tough match like that."

Sabatini said she feels comfortable with her play and that her only goals are to win another Grand Slam this year and keep trying to move ahead of No. 1 Monica Seles and No. 2 Steffi Graf.

3 finalists named for Jesse Owens award

NEW YORK (R) — The list of finalists for the 1993 Jesse Owens International Trophy award has been narrowed to three — American track stars Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Kevin Young and gymnast Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus.

The trophy, to be awarded February 9, is presented to the athlete who best personifies excellence in athletic performance and promotes cooperation and understanding among peoples of all nations. The winner is selected by an international panel of electors.

Joyner-Kersey, considered the world's greatest female athlete, successfully defended her Olympic heptathlon title, scoring in excess of 7,000 points for the sixth time.

Young was undefeated in 400-metre hurdles last year. He won the Olympic gold medal and broke Edwin Moses' nine-year-old world record in 1992.

Scherbo won a record six Olympic gold medals in Barcelona. He captured gold in parallel bars, vault, rings, pommel horse and won the individual all-around gold and as a member of the winning CIS squad, formerly the Soviet Union.

The Jesse Owens Award, which was founded in 1980, last year went to American long jumper Mike Powell following his world record performance at the world championships.

Other previous winners include cyclist Greg Lemond, track stars Carl Lewis, Florence Griffith-Joyner, Moses and Sebastian Coe, and diver Greg Louganis.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Basketball matches resume today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The final round of the First Division Basketball Championship begins Tuesday with four matches played at Ahli and Orthodox courts. Home teams play Al Orthodox, Al Abbasi play Al Ahli, Al Watani meet Al Jallil and Al Hussein clash against Al Jazireh. The championship ends Jan. 26.

Courier, Edberg head Rio Challenge entries

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Top-ranked Jim Courier of the United States and U.S. Open champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden head the entries for the Rio Challenge exhibition tennis tournament starting Wednesday at Memorial Drive. The six-man event features two round-robin groups, with the winner of each group advancing to the final Saturday. Courier faces Australian Todd Woodbridge in his opener Wednesday, while Czech left-hander Petr Korda plays American Patrick McEnroe. Edberg and Grand Slam Cup winner Michael Stich of Germany are inactive on the opening night.

Home field could help 49ers — especially if muddy

SAM FRANCISCO (AP) — George Seifert said all the right things about the mucky field at Candlestick Park, where his San Francisco 49ers will play the Dallas Cowboys next Sunday for the right to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl. There's a sense of symmetry to the 49ers-Cowboys game, which will be played 11 years after their last meeting in the Conference title game. That propelled San Francisco to its first of four Super Bowl victories, while the Cowboys started a slide that hit bottom when they went 3-13 and 1-15 in 1988 and 1989. Only one team has made the Super Bowl three straight years. The Miami Dolphins. Only one team can stop the Buffalo Bills from equating that feat. The Miami Dolphins. At Joe Robbie Stadium, the AFC East rivals meet for the Conference crown and a trip to Pasadena, California in two weeks. The Bills have lost in their two Super Bowls. Miami, which has been to five NFL Championships games, lost after the 1971 season and won following the '72 and '73 campaigns.

Cameroon wins on pair of second-half goals

DOUALA, Cameroon (AP) — Ernest Ebongue scored in the opening minute of the second half, leading Cameroon to a 2-1 victory over Zaire in Africa Group B in regional qualifying for the 1994 World Cup. The victory moved Cameroon, a quarterfinalist at the 1990 World Cup in Italy, two points ahead of Zaire in the race for the group lead, giving Cameroon a 2-0-0 record. Zaire fell to 1-0-2. Swaziland was 1-0-1 while Liberia was 0-1-1. Meanwhile Adam Ndlozi eluded a loose Angolan defense to score in the 33rd minute, helping Zimbabwe to a 1-1 draw and moving it past Egypt into the Africa Group C lead in qualifying for the 1994 World Cup. Ndlozi's goal gave Zimbabwe the lead, but Angola tied the match in the second half before a crowd of about 30,000. The draw gave Zimbabwe a 2-1-0 record and five points in the first round of qualifying, one point ahead of Egypt. Both teams play again next Sunday, Angola hosting Egypt and Zimbabwe at Togo.

Mahrer wins fourth downhill of season

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — Swiss veteran Daniel Mahrer captured a men's world cup downhill Monday and posted his second career victory on the tough Kandahar Course. Peter Rzeznak of Austria was second, while Sunday's winner Franz Heinzer, another Swiss veteran, finished third. The race was a replacement for a downhill in Val d'Isere that had to be abandoned because of bad weather Dec. 4. It was moved from Friday to Monday because of mild weather in the German resort. The man who led when the December race was abandoned, A.J. Kitt of the United States, failed to start Monday after crashing in Sunday's race. Kitt suffered no major injuries but decided to skip Monday's race.

Rockets, Celtics score wins

NEW YORK (R) — Hakeem Olajuwon scored 35 points, pulled down 13 rebounds and blocked six shots to help the Houston Rockets snap a seven-game losing streak with a 97-88 triumph over the visiting Utah Jazz. Karl Malone had 29 points and nine rebounds and John Stockton scored 20 points and handed out 10 assists for the Jazz, who lost for only the second time in nine games. The Boston Celtics won a 23-point third quarter lead, then held off a furious fourth quarter New York comeback to beat the Knicks 100-97 at Madison Square Garden for their fifth consecutive win. The Knicks went on a 43-19 tear to get within one point at 96-95 with 1:15 to go. New York again pulled to within one on a pair of Patrick Ewing free throws with 47 seconds left. Danny Manning scored 24 points to lead the Los Angeles Clippers past Bucks in Milwaukee 104-99, snapping a four-game losing streak.

Milan score 50th successive win; Beбето keeps Deportivo on top

LONDON (Agencies) — Star-studded leaders AC Milan completed 50 League matches without defeat this weekend and fended off accusations that their dominance of Italian Football was bad for the game.

They scored their half century with a 1-0 home win over Cagliari.

"Sooner or later, we'll lose and end the chorus of critics who are trying to find ways of stopping us," Milan president Silvio Berlusconi said.

"People say we've killed off the championship but when we lose two consecutive games, they'll say that we are at the end of our winning cycle," he added. Sparkle in the Milan side, which dominated Sunday's match, was provided by Italian international Roberto Donadoni, one of many famous Milan names used only part time because of the plethora of talent at the club.

Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin scored the only goal from a penalty.

Milan continue to lead the championship by eight points from second-placed Internazionale who defeated Foggia 3-1



Deportivo's Jose Beбето

away.

In Rome, third placed Lazio continued a good run with a 2-0 victory over Brescia, both goals coming from the League's leading

goalscorer, Giuseppe Signori. Asked about Englishman Paul Gascoigne, who was a last-minute selection only because German Karl-Heinz Riedle went down with influenza, coach Dino Zoff replied:

"Clearly Gascoigne is not currently at his best, but even in his present condition he remains an important player."

Last week Zoff expressed dissatisfaction at Gascoigne's fitness following the Christmas break.

In Spain, unlikely top dogs Deportivo Coruna extended their lead to two points, taking advantage of second-placed Barcelona's 0-0 draw with Sevilla.

Deportivo enjoyed a commanding 3-0 win over Cadiz, with two goals from Brazil's Beбето which made in the League's top goal scorer, two clear of Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov.

The Sevilla-Barcelona confrontation, billed as the match of the century in last week's press, produced none of the expected fireworks from Sevilla's Deigo Maradona against his former club.

The ex-Argentine captain lavished praise on his old club: "You have to be very alert with this Barcelona side. Their forwards are impressive, always moving, and can upset anyone."

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff returned the compliment: "Sevilla worked hard and played well. The marking of Stoichkov was very solid and he had no chances."

Third-placed Real Madrid put away five goals at Real Sociedad. "It's a triumph and gives us much greater confidence for the future," coach Benito Floro said.

Norwich squandered its chance of regaining top spot in English Soccer's Premier League Sunday when it went down 1-0 at Sheffield Wednesday, leaving Manchester United atop the standings.

Northern Ireland international leftback Nigel Worthington scored the only goal of the game in the 41st minute but Wednesday should have scored more as the "owls" overpowered the "canaries."

Norwich only needed a point to regain top spot, captured by Manchester United, which downed Tottenham 4-1. Aston Villa also leapfrogged Norwich by winning 2-1 at Liverpool.

All three clubs have 41 points from 23 games with United (34-18) top on goal difference and Villa (34-25) second. Norwich is 34-35.

Wednesday's victory meant it moved up five places to 11th.

Japanese boxer dies after knockout

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese boxer Yasuji Hamakawa, unconscious since being knocked out in a bout Dec. 19, has died at a hospital, the Japan Boxing Commission said Monday. Hamakawa, a 23-year-old lightweight, died last Thursday, said the commission's Masakazu Uchida. Hamakawa was knocked down once in the seventh round before he was knocked out later in the round in a scheduled eight-round fight in Osaka, Western Japan. He lost consciousness in the ring and was taken to a nearby hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery for brain damage. Before that fight, Hamakawa had a record of six victories and seven defeats.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

HAS BRIDGE DEVELOPED?

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ K 4
♥ 5 4 2
♦ K Q J 10
♣ A Q 10 7
WEST
♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ 7 3
♦ A 5 4 2
♣ 3 4
EAST
♠ Q J 10 2
♥ K Q 9 8 6
♦ 7
♣ K 6 3
SOUTH
♠ A 7 5
♥ A J 10
♦ 9 8 3
♣ J 9 8 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass
Opening lead: Seven of ♠.

We have frequently argued that while bidding has made huge strides since the Golden Age of bridge more than 50 years ago, this is not true of play. In support of our argument, we submit this hand.

The North-South hands were set as a problem in *The Bridge World* back in 1912. More than half the entries submitted found the winning line.

Modern bidders tend to use 15-17 points as the range for a one-no-trump opening bid, so that would be the choice with the North hand.

most East players would double to bring both major suits into the picture, but that should not alter South's forward-going response of one no trump.

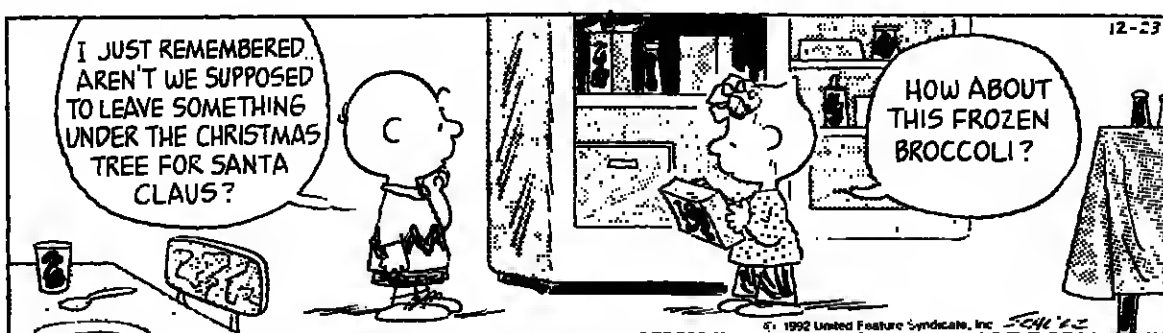
On the opening lead of a heart, fetching the queen from East, should declarer hold up? No, because a spade shift might prove fatal. After winning the ace of hearts, which minor suit should declarer tackle first?

If East holds both the ace of diamonds and king of clubs, the defenders will prevail no matter what declarer does, collecting three heart tricks and two in the minors. Therefore, West must hold one of the key cards for the contract to succeed.

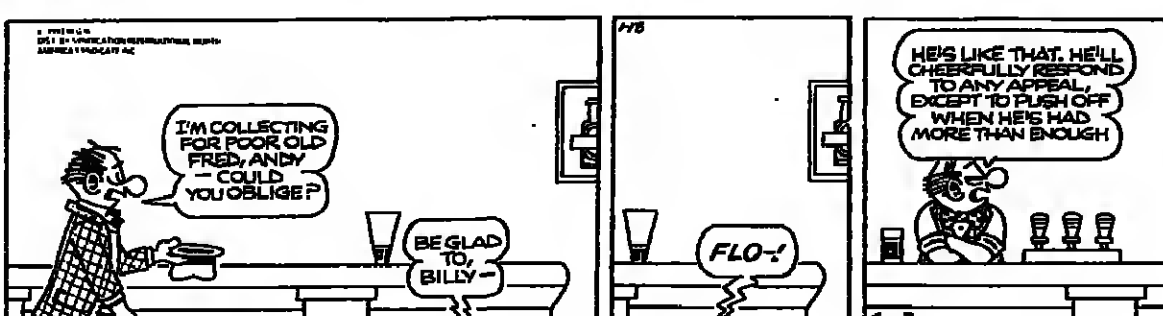
If West holds the king of clubs, declarer gets home no matter which minor is tackled first. The crucial situation is where West has the ace of diamonds and East the king of clubs. If declarer goes after diamonds first, West can win the ace and return a heart, and declarer's last heart stopper is forced out before the clubs are set up.

Correct technique is to tackle clubs first by running the nine, regaining the finesse if it wins. Although it loses, the defenders' communications are shattered and, when West wins the ace of diamonds, East has no entry, so declarer's contract is secure.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR Tuesday January 12, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: One of the best days this month when you will be wise to carry through with whatever promises you have made without making any changes or taking any chances with any major asset under your control.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider what your personal wishes are and see if you can do them in a more exciting fashion so that you have considerable more pleasure in life.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have a day now when you can get in the outside world and do whatever you wish of a civic or credit nature that can bring you more in tune with desired success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think in terms today of new plans of action and activities by which you will be able to raise the level of your present interests, needs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have a good time now to seek better ways to handle whatever your business affairs and to get an expert to show you modern methods.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Forget all that pride that you as a royal Leo possess and let those who can be helpful to you in the future know just what they can do to aid your progress.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A day to seek those gadgets

and conditions by which you can better get your tasks performed in an efficient and operative manner.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) There are some unusual means by which you can make the recreations that you enjoy the most more satisfying and this is the day to seek them out.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You want to make some sudden and drastic changes at your residence but the time is not yet ripe to do so; so ponder and consider plan more fully.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever needs to be improved where transportation or communication matters are concerned should be handled in a specialized manner now.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have some property or possessions that require your personal attention in tending up and this is a fine day to get at work to improve such.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think about your most original ideas and how they can be made to operate in your behalf and start such action in motion right away.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take a good look at what you do not like in your environment and think in terms of making the changes that can alleviate such a condition.

THE BETTER HALF

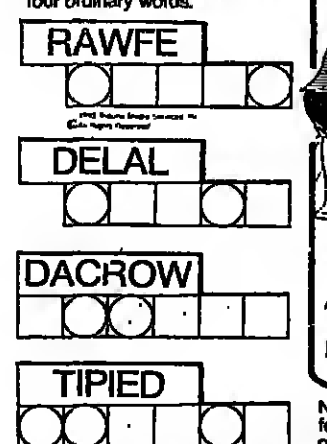
By Harris



"For \$50 a week I'll do all of your worrying for you so you'll never have to worry again!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

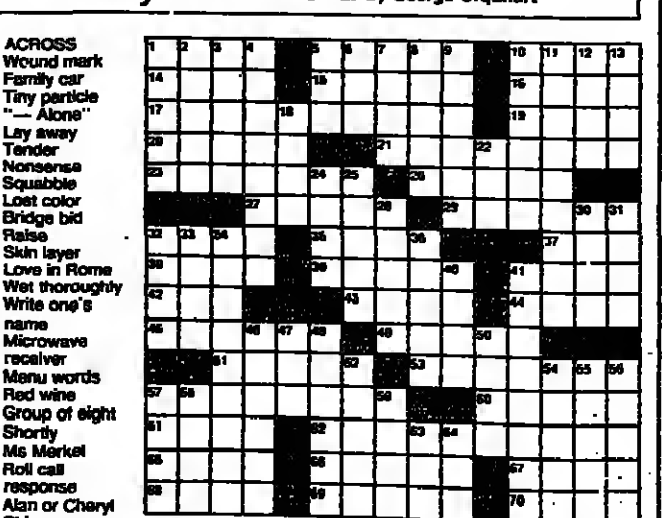


Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: TWEET BANAL AMPERE MODISH

Answer: The kind of pen with which to write a tearjerker—A BAWL POINT

THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart



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ACROSS
1 Wound mark
5 Family car
10 Tiny particle
14 "— Alone"
15 Lay away
16 Tender
17 Nonsense
18 Squabble
20 Lost color
21 Bridge bid
22 Rattle
25 Skin layer
27 Low in Rome
28 Wet thoroughly
32 Write one's name
35 Microwave receiver
37 Menu words
38 Red wine
39 Group of eight
41 Shortly
42 Ms. Market
43 Roll call response
44 Alan or Cheryl
45 Chicago University
48 Go back to square one
51 Made a mistake
53 A Jackson
57 Treeless grassland
60 Slow, in music
61 Nun's cap
62 Piece for a football game
65 "— Kareenna"
66 Civil War signature
67 Author Ludwig
68 Track-and-field event
69 — Lauder
70 Treats leather

DOWN
2 Like a rainbow
9 Required
10 Take for granted
11 Star comedian
12 Taken by mouth
13 Allocate
14 Dutch cheese
15 Cockney great
24 Common
25 Author — Marie
26 Remarque
28 Chemical compound
30 Bumpkin
31 Crew member
32 Tater
33 Bulwer-Lytton heroine
34 Secret source of information
35 Seraglio
40 Across Moore
41 A to Z
46 PLO leader
47 Coffee vessel
48 Poe poem
50 Play part: Fr.

52 Is brave
54 Fragrance
55 Newman
56 Top-notch
57 Con game
58 Top-notch
59 Scenty's call
63 Once called
64 Turn right

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 11/1/93	Tel Aviv Close 11/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5315	1.5440
Deutsche Mark	1.6475	1.6357
Swiss Franc	1.5025	1.4903
French Franc	5.6050	5.5600
Japanese Yen	125.39	125.36
European Currency Unit	1.1915	1.1996

100 Per SYG
European Opening @ 8:30 a.m. GMT

European Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.25	3.43	3.87
Sterling Pound	7.10	6.81	6.81	6.68
Deutsche Mark	6.58	6.37	7.93	7.43
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.81	5.43	5.00
French Franc	11.12	11.00	10.12	9.00
Japanese Yen	3.75	3.62	3.50	3.43
European Currency Unit	10.25	10.25	9.68	8.81

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	328.80	6.45	Silver	3.66	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0635	1.0688
Deutsche Mark	0.4211	0.4232
Swiss Franc	0.4621	0.4644
French Franc	0.1238	0.1244
Japanese Yen	0.5491	0.5518
Dutch Guilder	0.3738	0.3767
Swedish Krona	0.09350	0.0940
Italian Lira	0.0459	0.0461
Belgian Franc	0.02045	0.02055

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.7970	1.8180
Lebanese Lira	0.036263	0.039355
Saudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1866	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7580	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.31465	0.32665
Cypriot Pound	1.4125	1.4325

Per 100
CAR Index for Amman Financial Market

Index	9/1/93	Close	10/1/93	Close
All-Share	179.51		180.53	
Banking Sector	129.19		129.45	
Insurance Sector	196.43		196.58	
Industry Sector	247.34		249.61	
Services Sector	245.33		246.44	

December 31, 1992 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.5475/85	U.S. dollar
Bahraini Dinar	1.2745/50	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.6345/55	Deutsche mark
	1.8370/80	Dutch guilder
	1.4932/42	Swiss franc
	33.58/62	Belgian franc
	5.5500/50	French franc
	14951/497	Italian lire
	125.24/29	Japanese yen
	7.3560/60	Swedish crowns
	6.9860/60	Norwegian crowns
	6.3300/400	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	328.60/329.10	U.S. dollars

Aeroflot hopes to improve its image

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's state-owned airline Aeroflot has launched a campaign to improve its battered image, stepping up the quality of its bland food and improving service aboard planes and on the ground.

Senior aviation officials said that Aeroflot also planned new training schemes for its staff and to improve facilities at airports across Russia.

"The problem of service is being solved in several ways," Vladimir Potapov, executive director of Aeroflot's international department, told a Moscow news conference.

He said the airline, which carries 120 million passengers and more than two million tonnes of freight a year, was remodelling the interiors of its existing planes and leasing new Western planes to be used on international routes.

It has already leased five Airbus 310-300 jets to fly to destinations in Europe and Asia.

Travellers have long complained in vain about Aeroflot staff, poor food and dirty, overcrowded planes.

The vast airline had a monopoly over flights throughout the old Soviet Union. Heavily subsidised fares meant it had no spare cash to improve services or modernise equipment.

Officials conceded that Aeroflot, which celebrates its 70th anniversary in February, was struggling to adjust to soaring prices for fuel and spiralling wages since the start of 1992.

Vitaly Solomatov, head of the transport ministry's Air Traffic Forecasting Department told the news conference that 30 airports across Russia were currently closed because they could not pay for fuel deliveries.

"Air transport enterprises owe 80 billion roubles (\$192 million) to fuel companies and they are totally insolvent," Mr. Solomatov said.

He said domestic fares would rise by as much as seven-fold in January.

Israelis expect privatisation to spark stocks, shares boom

TEL AVIV (R) — The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange index soared nearly 74 per cent in 1992 on doubled volume but Chairman Haim Stoessel hopes for a fresh boost this year from promised privatisation of Israeli state companies.

The general stock market index rose to 173.98 from a base of 100 at the start of the year. The blue chip index of 94 stocks rose to 195.97 from the base of 100. Total sales nearly doubled to 37 billion shekels from 10 billion shekels in 1991.

The number of companies on the exchange reached 378 in 1992 compared to 286 at the end of 1991. Daily trading rose to an average 111 million shekels in 1992 and in some cases exceeded 200 million shekels.

Total market worth of shares traded reached about 77 billion shekels compared to 33 billion at the end of 1991. About 14.5 billion shekels were in firms listed in 1992 for the first time.

"It is to be hoped that the profitable improvement in the stock market companies will also continue in 1993 and also enable the capital market and stock mar-

ket base to broaden through massive privatisation," Mr. Stoessel said in a report issued by the stock exchange.

Brokers said the stock market got a boost this year when Israeli provident funds — pension investments once concentrated in government bonds — were allowed by the government to invest 50 per cent of their holdings in equities.

The independent Israeli stock market newsletter Insight said in late November that mutual funds were an even more significant factor in pushing share prices up. "But the flow of new money from the public is not limitless (although some would argue otherwise) and eventually prices will have to find another leg to rise on," Insight warned.

During the year Israel took one step by loosening foreign currency regulations, enabling foreigners to invest in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

A long-delayed futures options market is due to begin operation by the end of March, Mr. Stoessel said.

Yet analysts say the main step could be privatisation of com-

panies held by the government and the powerful labour party-affiliated Histadrut trade federation.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party came to power in July vowing to revitalise the economy. His promise to curb Jewish settlement in occupied Arab lands won \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to bolster the economy.

Gross domestic product (GDP) rose 6.4 per cent during 1992 compared with a 5.9 per cent rise in 1991 and inflation has been on the decline.

But unemployment, aggravated by the arrival of more than 400,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union since 1989, has remained steady at 11 per cent despite slowing immigration.

Although Mr. Rabin has vowed to speed up privatisation to spark the economy, the slow pace has meant there is still no stock traded in some of Israel's biggest enterprises, such as most banks.

"The worth of the assets which stand to be privatised is very great," Mr. Stoessel said.

Tate and Lyle to help set up Saudi sugar plant

MANAMA (R) — The British firm Tate and Lyle PLC is negotiating to set up a huge sugar plant in Saudi Arabia as part of an offset programme for a major British-Saudi arms deal, company and diplomatic sources have said.

The Jeddah refinery would produce 500,000 tonnes of white sugar and 20,000 tonnes of molasses a year, which would be more than enough to cover the entire Saudi demand at present of more than 400,000 tonnes.

It would be by far the largest sugar plant in the Gulf.

The Saudi food company Savola, which until now has not been involved in the sugar market, would be the main Saudi investor and would be joined by other

Gulf partners, including the Al Ghurair family of the United Arab Emirates.

Tate and Lyle would hold a minority stake. It has been encouraged to set up the plant by the British government, which is seeking to channel \$1 billion (\$1.5 billion) in British investment into Saudi Arabia.

This investment would help "offset" roughly one-quarter of the cost of the first phase of the Al Yamamah defence deal, a British diplomat in Riyadh told Reuters.

Al Yamamah involves the supply of British Aerospace Tornado aircraft as well as trainers, minesweepers and technical advice to the Saudis.

A Savola official said the company hopes to sign an agreement this month to set up the factory. This would be either during a visit Tate and Lyle's chairman will make to Jeddah in a week or else later in the month.

But the emphasised the project was still under negotiation.

He said he hoped construction would begin in the middle of the year and be finished by early 1995, beginning production by mid-1995. The plant would use raw sugar cane, imported from wherever it was cheapest, he added.

He would not reveal the exact cost but said the figure of 600 million riyals (\$160 million) mentioned in an article in Jeddah's Arab News was in the ballpark.

The Arab News had revealed that the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF), a government institution, had agreed last month to provide half the funding. SIDF offers interest-free loans to solid projects to encourage industries to start up.

Savola, traded on the Saudi stock market, also hopes to set up an oilseed crushing plant at the same site with Booker Tate, jointly owned by Booker PLC and Tate and Lyle.

It would crush primarily soybeans to produce crude vegetable oil, which can be refined to produce cooking oil, and protein meal, which can be fed to chickens and cattle.

But the Savola official said that while awaiting SIDF approval for oilseeds project Savola would proceed with the sugar plant.

He said Saudi sugar demand could rise to 700,000 tonnes by the end of the decade, as population grows and more sugar-consuming food factories are set up in the kingdom.

The company would also be able to export sugar to other Gulf countries, he added.

Smuggling hits Angola's diamond industry

LUANDA (R) — Smuggling and the fact that UNITA rebels control the main mining areas have taken some of the sparkle out of Angola's diamond industry but sales were still up on 1991, government figures have showed.

Mining and Geology Minister Jose Domingos Dias told the state-run Jornal de Angola in an interview that only 1.2 million carats worth \$250 million had been sold so far this year.

That compared with potential sales of 1.5 million carats worth \$300 million, he added.

Mr. Domingos Dias said millions of dollars had been lost due to National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) occupation of the main mines in the north and illicit trade across the Zaire border.

Sales were, however, up on the 1991 total of less than one million carats worth \$180 million and a slump of 714,000 carats worth \$32,000 in 1985.

UNITA has occupied 75 per cent of the country since a dispute over Sept. 29-30 elections. Mr. Domingos Dias said UNITA had completely paralysed

the area of Cafunfo — where two big projects were being developed by the state diamond firm Endiama.

"The political-military crisis, coupled with UNITA's occupation of the principle production areas, has led to great losses for the country," he added.

"Clearly while this situation (of instability) continues any mining project will have political, technological, social and financial risks," he said.

The government still wants to expand mineral and metals mining in other parts of the country and end its monopoly to stimulate exploration, research and extraction.

"All private domestic and foreign entities which want to invest in geology and mining can do it — the door is open," Mr. Domingos Dias said.

Mining accounts for less than three per cent of the gross domestic production. The government says it has big unexploited deposits of phosphates, copper, quartz, uranium, magnesium, wolfram, sulphur, limestone, nickel, gold and silver.

UAE approves higher 1993 budget deficit

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government Monday approved a 1993 budget with an estimated \$710 million deficit, nearly double that of last year.

The official Emirates News Agency (WAM) put the 1993 deficit at 1.7 billion dirhams (\$463 million) compared with 1.4 billion dirhams (\$381 million) in 1992. A further 900 million dirhams deficit rolled over from 1992 brings the total deficit to be financed to 2.6 billion dirhams (\$710 million).

Total 1993 federal government expenditure was set by the government, at a meeting Monday, slightly higher at 17.64 billion dirhams (\$4.80 billion) compared with 17.3 billion dirhams (\$4.71 billion) last year.

Revenues, mainly from the 2.3 million barrels of oil produced

daily in the UAE, were estimated almost unchanged at 15.91 billion dirhams, (\$4.33 billion).

The decision to keep expenditure virtually unchanged is in line with the practice of the past few years, where funding for federal departments such as education, social security and information has effectively declined in real terms.

The budget is mainly financed by the richest UAE state, Abu Dhabi, which is believed to provide more than 80 per cent of necessary funds.

The rest is provided by Dubai, the UAE's commercial hub and second biggest oil producer.

The five poorer emirates in the seven-member federation do not contribute towards the federal budget.

WAM did not give a detailed budget breakdown.

Swedish finance minister swings axe to cut deficit

STOCKHOLM (R) — Finance Minister Anne Wibble proposed sharp cuts in the soaring cost of unemployment benefits Monday, in a controversial attempt to stop Sweden's budget deficit from spinning out of control.

She announced reductions in compensation for unemployment, job creation and training schemes and work injury, despite forecasting that the jobless rate would rise to seven per cent of the work force next year from 6.2 per cent.

"The Swedish economy is in the throes of a deep recession," Ms. Wibble told parliament. Sweden's generosity to developing countries and its spending on defence and pensions also fell victim to the economic crisis.

State spending in the fiscal year starting next July will be \$20.7 billion crowns (\$70.4 billion) on falling income of only \$38.4 billion (\$48.4 billion), leaving a shortfall of 162.3 billion (\$21.9 billion).

The current year's budget deficit is expected to reach a record 198.3 billion crowns (\$26.8 billion).

Repayments on Sweden's national debt alone will account for 95 billion crowns (\$12.8 billion) next fiscal year, according to the budget.

New savings worth 11.9 billion crowns (\$1.6 billion) announced Monday included a 4.7 billion crowns (\$635 million) cut in unemployment payments and 2.1 billion crowns (\$284 million) less on job creation projects and work training.

The government had already announced net savings of 4.9 billion crowns (\$662 million) for the next budget year, bringing the total to 16.8 billion crowns (\$2.27 billion). Opposition Social Democratic leader Ingvar Carlsson condemned the budget as catastrophic, accusing the right-led coalition government of giving up its struggle for economic growth, full employment and sound state finance.

Ian Wachtmeister, leader of the right-wing New Democracy Party, also sharply criticised the government of Prime Minister Carl Bildt for mismanaging the economy.

"Admiral Bildt must see that his boat is being smashed by reality. It is time to alter course," said Mr. Wachtmeister.

Mr. Bildt's four-party coalition, lacking a majority in parliament, needs the support of Mr. Wachtmeister or an abstention by the Social Democrats for its proposals to become law.

Nicaragua devalues cordoba by 20% against U.S. dollar

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua devalued its currency, the cordoba, Sunday by 20 per cent against the U.S. dollar in a bid to strengthen exports and prop up its ailing economy.

The government of President Violeta Chamorro has decided as of today to devalue the cordoba by 20 per cent to make production and exports more profitable and to increase employment," Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said at a press conference attended by Ms. Chamorro's economic cabinet.

The devaluation reduces the value of the cordoba to six to the dollar from five to the dollar. The announcement follows an emergency meeting between Ms. Chamorro and her economic cabinet to devise a plan to revive the slumping economy.

Donor countries and others have been advising the government to devalue since last year. At a meeting last December, the United States, Japan and Taiwan, urged a devaluation, citing the high price the economy was paying to maintain the parity of five to one against the dollar.

Economic growth in 1992 came in at a sluggish one per cent, short of the target.

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Happy New Year

Army fans out to quell Bombay communal riots

BOMBAY (R) — Bands of Hindu attacked Muslim shops and homes in Bombay Monday as security forces struggle to quell riots in which at least 215 people have died in western India in six days.

Defence Minister Sharad Pawar ordered Indian troops to suppress widening bloodshed. Extra forces were rushed to Bombay, a city of 12 million, and convoys of heavily-armed soldiers imposed an uneasy calm in some areas worst affected by the dramatic flare-up.

The communal bloodbath triggered an exodus of Muslims from the city after frenzied rioters torched Muslim shops and homes at the weekend.

"Enough is enough. I just cannot watch Bombay being destroyed and the common man's life being paralysed," declared Mr. Pawar, a political leader from Bombay who flew to the city to direct security operations.

"I have ordered the army to go all out and deal ruthlessly with arsonists and rioters," he told reporters.

Banks, the stock exchange, major commodity markets and businesses closed down in India's commercial capital as more shops and cars were set ablaze and

looters ransacked stores, but officials said the level of violence had fallen.

At least eight more people were killed in Bombay Monday and seven more in the western city of Ahmadabad, taking the combined death toll in six days of bloody clashes to 215, according to police and hospitals.

Much of Ahmadabad was under curfew, forcing authorities to cancel a one-day cricket match between India and England scheduled for Saturday.

At least 158 people have died in Bombay and more than 700 were injured, many of them by stabbing.

Convoys of troops in full battle gear patrolled riot-hit areas, but despite the huge security clampdown, police and soldiers were forced to open fire against rioters in 12 places in Bombay Monday.

A police spokesman said he had no immediate details of casualties.

Witnesses said bands of Hindus attacked Muslim shops and homes in Bombay before dawn with stones, firebombs and acid in the latest communal backlash triggered by the razing of a mosque by Hindu zealots in the northern town of Ayodhya last month.

Thousands of Muslims camped

at the main Victoria railway station waiting for trains out of the city, once known for its tolerance and as a communal melting pot.

"Staying here means death for us," said Abdul Razak, who was waiting for a train to the northern city of Lucknow where he has relatives. He said in his area, Hindus were marking Muslim homes with red crosses.

Newspapers said the security situation had been fast running out of control over the weekend as rioters attacked police, looted shops and lit fires across Bombay.

Politicians said they hoped the release of six Hindu nationalist leaders arrested after the destruction of the Ayodhya Mosque on Dec. 6 would help calm passions among Hindus.

But Bombay's Independent newspaper said that it could take years to heal the wounds of communal hatred.

The city has been tense since last month's nationwide riots triggered by the razing of Ayodhya mosque by Hindu zealots in which more than 1,100 people died, including 202 in Bombay.

But the new flare-up appeared to have been deliberately fanned by Hindu political groups trying to push Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao into an early general election, political sources said.

France draws up plans to free Bosnian camps

PARIS (R) — France hedged Monday on its talk of using force to liberate prisoner camps in Bosnia but pressed ahead with proposals for urgent action to free Muslim victims of rape and torture.

Health and Humanitarian Action Minister Bernard Kouchner said after meeting Foreign Minister Roland Dumas that he would rapidly draw up a plan to send relief convoys under military escort to the Serb-controlled camps.

Mr. Dumas said Sunday France was prepared to act alone if necessary and use force where required.

But Mr. Kouchner said Security Council resolutions demanding access to the camps were not based on Article VII of the U.N. Charter "and therefore force cannot be used for that."

"I will submit a plan to (Mr. Dumas) very rapidly. I hope tonight or tomorrow morning, to try not just to make a gesture but to manage to free a certain number of these women," he said.

European Parliamentarian Simone Veil, who attended the meeting, said: "Nobody should imagine a real military operation... we can't suddenly go and liberate the Americans and the British liberated the (Nazi) camps in 1945 with tanks and military forces."

She said Muslim prisoners were very often held not in purpose-

built camps but in locations such as boarding houses or sports halls which could be rapidly evacuated, removing all evidence of abuse.

Ms. Veil said she found "an absolute determination that we should be able to go to the camps and achieve the release of men and women who are held there."

But she said French U.N. troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina would be used more as a deterrent accompanying relief convoys than to fight their way into detention centres.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic warned in a French television interview against any attempt to use force and said France should also demand the release of Serb prisoners.

Mr. Karadzic accused Mr. Kouchner of anti-Serb racism and, in a veiled threat, said: "If someone attacks the Serb people, no-one can answer for what will happen."

A European Community fact-finding mission reported last week that Serb fighters had raped an estimated 20,000 Muslim women as part of a systematic policy of "ethnic cleansing."

France's Socialist-led government, facing a general election in March, is under strong pressure from public opinion, the conservative opposition and influential intellectuals to take action to stop the bloodshed in former Yugoslavia.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

British papers oppose press crackdown

LONDON (R) — British newspapers Monday attacked reported recommendations by an inquiry to establish statutory curbs on the press, saying the measures amounted to censorship. "Big brother bullies want to gag our free press," said a headline in the mass circulation Sun newspaper. The government-ordered inquiry into the media is expected to urge the setting up of a press complaints tribunal, consisting of a judge and two government-appointed assessors, with power to impose fines on papers that breach a code of conduct. "I am not going to have some clapped-out judge and two busybodies deciding what appears in the Sun," said its editor, Kelvin McKenzie. Andrew Neil, editor of the Sunday Times newspaper, said the press would fight the proposals. "This is a way of politicians, parous second-rate pygmies, getting control of the press," he said. The 70-page report by lawyer Sir David Calcutt was delivered to the government Friday and was widely reported by newspapers following an apparent leak.

India, Pakistan to cut diplomatic staff

NEW DELHI (AP) — India and Pakistan have told each other to reduce staff at their embassies. On Sunday, India gave its neighbour until Feb. 10 to send 40 of its 150 high commission employees home from New Delhi, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Shiv Mukherjee. India also rejected Pakistan's request to use a building in Bombay where Mohammad Ali Jinnah, a Muslim leader who helped persuade British colonialists to create Pakistan, once lived. Last month, Pakistan told India to reduce the staff at its consulate in the city of Karachi from 64 to 20 by Jan. 31. On Dec. 5, Pakistan accused India of kidnapping and torturing one of its embassy employees and held a news conference in New Delhi to show the man's swollen, bruised and writhing body. India denied torturing the man, but said it arrested him after he was caught receiving documents in New Delhi from a militant from Jammu-Kashmir, a state involved in a guerrilla war.

Sri Lanka 'readying' offensive against Tamils

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan military headquarters that leads operations against Tamil rebels is moving closer to the battlefield in what could be a prelude to an offensive, military sources said Monday. The sources said that according to a decision taken last week, the Joint Operations Command (JOC) would move from Colombo northwards to the town of Anuradhapura, 200 kilometres from the capital. "The plan is to ensure commanding officers directing operations are closer to their troops, which helps to make planning more effective," one source said. The JOC, headed by General Hamilton Wanasinghe, a retired army commander, has directed operations against the rebels for many years. The military has been buying new aircraft, tanks and fast attack naval craft in a bid to defeat the Tamil Tiger guerrillas who are fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Boat overdue with nearly 400 refugees

MIAMI (AP) — A boat that reportedly left Haiti three weeks ago with nearly 400 refugees is missing, and Cuba has reported finding eight survivors of a shipwreck that could be it, the coast guard said Sunday. Cuba told the coast guard Friday of rescuing the eight off Cuba's northeastern coast on Dec. 23, officials said. The survivors said their ship, the 25-metre wooden freighter "Virgen Mirach," had gone down in the southeastern Bahamas on Dec. 21. The boat was carrying 396 people when it sank, according to the Cuban report. The coast guard has no direct evidence of the shipwreck, said Chief Petty Officer Joe Dyne, but had heard reports for more than a week that a ship called "Vier ge Miracle" left Haiti on Dec. 19 for a five-day trip to Miami and never arrived.

Undersea quakes reported off southern Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Over 1,000 undersea earthquakes measuring up to 4.0 on the Richter scale rocked a peninsula in central Japan Sunday and Monday, the Central Meteorological Agency said. Police said there were no reports of damage or injuries from the tremors centred about 10 kilometres (6 miles) below the ocean floor off the coast of the Izu Peninsula, 100 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. The agency said the focus of the tremors was very close to an undersea volcano that erupted four years ago, but seismologists do not expect major volcanic activity. A total of 1,183 tremors, including 25 quakes that were felt by people, were recorded between early Sunday and noon (0300 GMT) Monday, the agency said.

Yeltsin ousts Gaidar ally from government

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin Sunday dismissed a close ally of former acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar as the government's chief of staff, the presidential press service said Sunday. Mr. Yeltsin replaced Alexei Golovkov with Vladimir Kvasov, recommended by Mr. Gaidar's successor, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The Interfax and ITAR-TASS news agencies carried reports on Mr. Yeltsin's decree. No details were immediately available on Mr. Kvasov's background. After hard-line Russian lawmakers last month forced Mr. Yeltsin to replace Mr. Gaidar with Mr. Chernomyrdin, a Soviet-era industrial manager, there was fear among some that key Gaidar allies would be forced from the government. Mr. Gaidar had been the architect of Mr. Yeltsin's free-market reforms. All key members of Mr. Gaidar's team remain in the cabinet, however, except Foreign Economic Relations Minister Pyotr Aven.

Seoul denies it sought plutonium contract

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea denied Monday that it sought to conclude a contract with Britain to extract plutonium, a key material to manufacture nuclear bombs. Chung Tae-ik, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's America Bureau, made the denial in response to a report by the New York Times that the Seoul government had sought the contract since 1991. "The report is totally groundless. The Republic of (South) Korea does not plan to seek such a contract in the future, either," Mr. Chung said. Mr. Chung said South Korea and Britain signed an agreement on the peaceful use of atomic energy in 1991, but the accord has no clause on plutonium extraction. South Korea has nine nuclear power plants in operation and five more under construction.

Zimbabwe denies South African charges

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe denied South African charges that it offered sanctuary to anti-apartheid guerrillas, saying Pretoria used them as an excuse to launch military raids into its territory. "I want to say emphatically that we do not have any PAC (Pan Africanist Congress) bases in this country," Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira told state television late Sunday night. South Africa warned Zimbabwe last month it risked being attacked militarily for allegedly training guerrillas of the PAC, a radical black nationalist group fighting to topple Pretoria's white minority government.

Bomb kills 13 in Pakistan Bihari colony

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — A bomb exploded in a southern Pakistan town inhabited by ethnic Biharis, killing 13 people on the day 323 Biharis arrived from Bangladesh where they had been stranded for 21 years, officials said Monday. Local officials said the bomb was planted in a motorcycle in Bihari colony in the town of Kotri in the southern province of Sind late Sunday. The blast demolished five houses and started a fire that engulfed dozens of shops and houses. "I could hear the cries of the victims and all I could see was blood and human remains splattering whatever walls were left standing after the deafening blast," a local newspaper quoted an eyewitness as saying. Officials said 13 people were killed and 14 injured, some seriously. People opposed to the return of the Biharis from Bangladesh called a "black day" of protest in the interior of Sind province Monday, banging black flags at schools and universities.

COLUMN

\$30m toilet

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The year's first U.S. shuttle mission — for which the countdown began Sunday — will include testing a multimillion-dollar toilet. During their week-long mission, the five-member crew of the shuttle endeavour are to make the first use of an improved space toilet intended to accommodate crews on 30-day visits to a future space station. Engineers say the \$30 million device needs less maintenance in orbit than current shuttle toilets and is designed to be less messy. The crew will also use a toy police car, a wind-up submarine and two dozen other playthings to teach schoolchildren physics in a televised linkup.

Calves born with sex predetermined

LONDON (AP) — The world's first calves whose sex was determined before birth have been born in Britain, scientists announced Monday. The three female and three male Holstein Friesian calves were born between March and May, said Jenny Botsford, a spokeswoman for Mastercalf, the Cambridge-based company which developed the method of sorting sperm to determine the calves' sex. Chris Polge, scientific director for Mastercalf, said the technique probably would not work with humans. The sperm selection method was first demonstrated on rabbits and has been used on pigs and sheep, but cattle are "the big target at the present moment," the Daily Telegraph quoted him as saying.

Mac time for monkey

MELBOURNE (R) — A white-moustached South American emperor tamarin monkey named Alfredo, stolen from Melbourne zoo at the weekend, was found at a McDonald's hamburger restaurant, police said Monday. Police said the monkey, only about 15 centimetres long and the zoo's valuable breeding male emperor tamarin, was found under a table late Sunday by restaurant staff only a short distance from the zoo. "He showed no signs of injury but apparently he was very, very thirsty and very, very hungry," police spokeswoman Lisa Barnes said. It was not known if Alfredo had tried the fast food fare at the restaurant. The 10-year-old Alfredo was reunited with his simian family soon after. He had been stolen from his cage Saturday night after the thief forced open a lock and chain on the cage door. Police said they would continue their investigations to try to nab the monkey snatcher.

Sinatra honoured

PALM SPRINGS (AP) — Frank Sinatra received the Palm Springs International Film Festival's Golden Palm Award at dinner attended by many of the crooner's show business friends. "Whoever put this all together — it's absolutely thrilling. I loved every minute of my life in show business. Every minute," Mr. Sinatra said Saturday. Last year's honoree, actor Jimmy Stewart, presented the award. "Folks all over applaud you for being such a special man," he told Mr. Sinatra. Among the 700 people attending the gala were Robert Wagner, Jill St. John and former Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono.

Neighbours don't want cannibal in hospital

LIBREVILLE (R) — Angry neighbours demonstrated outside a hospital in Gabon Sunday to protest against the admission of a convicted cannibal. Theophile Mba Ntem, who was sentenced to death in 1989 for cannibalism and sorcery, was taken from prison for treatment at the hospital at Melen, near Libreville, for an undisclosed illness. About 50 local residents with placards saying "Mba Ntem out" blocked access to the hospital. They told reporters they feared for their children's lives and claimed Mba Ntem had been seen walking alone in the area. He was convicted for the 1987 murder of a Gabonese teacher, parts of whose body he ate.

Space monkeys return

MOSCOW (AP) — Two monkeys returned to Earth in good condition Sunday after spending nearly two weeks in orbit aboard a Russian spacecraft, the Interfax news agency reported. The monkey's had been launched Dec. 1 aboard a Soyuz booster rocket fired from the Plesetsk cos. some north of Moscow. The rocket also carried plants, insects and cell and tissue cultures.

Top Patten adviser queries Hong Kong drive for democracy

HONG KONG (R) — A member of Governor Chris Patten's inner circle of advisers questioned Monday whether Hong Kong should push through with Mr. Patten's democratic reform proposals in the face of furious opposition from China.

Felice Lieh Mak, appointed by Mr. Patten three months ago to the British colony's executive council, said she feared China's constant attacks on the reform plans would undermine the local economy, Hong Kong's only trump card in bargaining with Peking.

"If the economy is affected in a way that is going to be irreversible, or is going to take a few years to pick up again, then we will have to seriously consider whether there are alternatives," she told Reuters.

Ms. Lieh Mak's comments mark the first whiff of open dissent from the council, which groups businessmen, academics and government officials, since Mr. Patten announced his package last Oct. 7, to immediate outcry from China.

Members of Hong Kong's conservative business community have frequently expressed similar worries over Mr. Patten's plans, which would allow local people to elect the majority of their legislature for the first time ever in 1995.

But Hong Kong's 12 executive councillors, bound by rules of collective responsibility and secrecy on their discussions, rarely if ever criticise government policy in public.

Ms. Lieh Mak, a professor of psychiatry and former conservative legislator, said the Sino-British row had yet to inflict lasting economic damage despite a stock market plunge last month.

But she said: "If this goes on for another six months there will be an erosion of investors' confidence," adding that the property market would fall and Sino-British talks on Hong Kong's 1997 return to China would become even more deeply bogged down.

"Hong Kong's economic strength and viability is our one trump card to maintain our autonomy and to really maintain the principle of Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong," she said. "Without a strong economy, our usefulness to China will be markedly reduced."

Mr. Patten has been quick to note that more than 60 per cent of foreign investment in China comes from Hong Kong and analysts say hitting Hong Kong too hard might destroy local confidence and stop the flow of money into the mainland.

Ms. Lieh Mak said the executive council was unlikely to change the proposals significantly before they went to the legislature next month. The legislative council (Legco) would then have to shape them into laws acceptable to the people of Hong Kong. She stressed she had no personal objection to the Patten package, saying in the cold light of day it was nothing very radical.

But she added: "I'm not happy with China's response."

China has attacked Mr. Patten almost daily and also threatened dire economic consequences for Hong Kong if he does not back down. It has threatened to cancel any government business contracts after 1997 which do not have its prior approval.

Legislators elected in 1995 will in theory have four year terms, taking them well into Chinese rule.

Dublin to get new coalition

DUBLIN (AP) — The Labour Party has overwhelmingly approved a plan for a coalition government with acting Prime Minister Albert Reynolds' Fianna Fail Party.

The new government is expected to take power Tuesday when the Dail (parliament) reconvenes. The alliance, the first between the two parties, will have a record 36-seat majority in the 166-seat Dail.

Mr. Reynolds is expected to remain as prime minister and political leaders say Labour will receive six of the 14 cabinet posts.

Mr. Reynolds has been operating as a caretaker prime minister following devastating losses for Fianna Fail in the Nov. 25 general election which saw Labour emerge with its highest number of seats in Irish history.

Talks between Labour and Fianna Fail began before Christmas, and negotiations produced a 58-page joint policy document that aims to reduce unemployment, currently near 20 per cent, and reform laws against divorce and homosexuality.

At a special Labour conference in Dublin Sunday, only a handful of more than 1,200 delegates opposed a five-year blueprint to share power with Fianna Fail.

Mr. Reynolds was forced to call the election when his coalition government with the Progressive Democrats collapsed in a dispute over a previous government's support for beef shipments to Iraq.

In the election, Fianna Fail which had hoped to win an outright majority remained the largest party. But it took less than 40 per cent of the popular vote for the first time since 1927, its first election.

Savimbi says he is still in Huambo base

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, in a defiant radio broadcast, told followers Monday he was still at his post in his Stronghold, Huambo, and his forces were still battling government troops.

"It is a lie that my house is in MPLA (government) hands," Mr. Savimbi declared over his group's radio, the Voice of the resistance of the Black Cockerel.

"I am talking to you from Huambo," he said. "Our soldiers and officers have behaved with bravery and resolve, as during the last attack. I am at my post and will remain here."

The battle for Huambo, Angola's second most important city, has been raging for three days, with little independent information reaching the outside and both sides issuing wildly conflicting claims.

Diplomats in the capital, Luanda, believed Monday that the government had the upper hand

and most rebel-forces had retreated to the outskirts of the central highland city.

An army communique Saturday said government troops had captured Mr. Savimbi's headquarters, a villa known as "The White House," near Huambo airport, and his supporters were fleeing.

Diplomats in Luanda, reached by telephone, also said that after two weeks of fierce fighting the two sides might be nearly ready to negotiate again.

Mr. Savimbi, backed by the United States and South Africa, fought Angola's pro-Soviet government for 16 years in a cold war showdown that was supposed to have ended with a 1991 peace agreement.

But when the government won an internationally supervised election in September, Mr. Savimbi rejected the result and his forces took over large areas of the country.

Charles 'throne out'

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana has made prince Charles clear out his belongings from Kensington Palace, their London home until their separation last month, British tabloid newspapers reported Monday.

Under the headline "Throne out," the Daily Mirror said in a front-page report that the princess wanted to remove all trace of her estranged husband from the palace before she returned from a Caribbean holiday last week.

Prince Charles's paintings, furniture, clothes and ornaments were removed in a secret night operation in a convoy of vans, the newspaper said.

Under the couple's separation arrangement, Kensington Palace is Princess Diana's London residence.

"Diana couldn't stand having

the stuff around and insisted Charles's things should be gone when she got back from Paris," the Mirror quoted a royal insider as saying.

The Daily Star said some of Prince Charles's belongings were taken to a suite of rooms at St. James's palace in London which he plans to use as a bachelor pad.

The rest were taken to his country home, Highgrove House, in Gloucestershire.

"The couple had agreed that it would be less painful for both of them if everything, from the prince's favourite chair down to his last cuff-link, was removed while she was out of the country," said the Daily Star.

At the weekend British newspapers reported that Princess Diana, 31, was willing to give up custody of her two sons.

Decades-old documents haunt Christopher

By Pete Yost and by Scott Rothchild
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State-designate Warren Christopher's personal papers indicate he was informed in 1968 that army "operatives" were gathering intelligence on civil rights and anti-war activists.

But he later told Congress that as deputy attorney general, "I did not authorise it and I did not know about it."

His 1977 remarks came before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the same panel that, beginning Wednesday, will consider President-elect Bill Clinton's nomination of Mr. Christopher to become secretary of state.

Mr. Christopher's files at the Lyndon B. Johnson archives, reviewed by the Associated Press, are dotted with intelligence reports from the army about Vietnam War protesters and followers of the late Martin Luther King.

A national security spokesman for the Clinton transition said Sunday that Mr. Christopher would not comment. Insisting that he not be quoted by name, this spokesman said, "Mr. Christopher's recol-

lection of these events today does not differ from his recollection and testimony when he was last confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1977. The excerpts you provided us from the papers 'do not alter Mr. Christopher's recollection.'"

The spokesman reassured that Mr. Christopher "had no knowledge that the U.S. Army was engaged in the surveillance of civilians or other covert activity."

A senior staff member for the Foreign Relations Committee said Sunday the panel had been unaware of the documents and planned to look into the matter further.

The military's surveillance of civilians at the height of Vietnam-era unrest was exposed and stopped in 1970. It was later criticised in Congress as an unconstitutional infringement of free speech and assembly.

Mr. Christopher, like other officials in the Johnson administration, has insisted that he did not know army intelligence agents were spying on civilian organisations and assembling computerised databanks on thousands of citizens.

Mr. Christopher's knowledge of the army surveillance of civilians was discussed in



Warren Christopher

from news tickers.

Yet several documents reviewed at the presidential library in Austin, Texas, show that as Mr. Johnson's number two justice department official, Mr. Christopher was provided written descriptions of the army's intelligence operation that showed a far more ambitious programme.

Paul Bower, Mr. Christopher's top assistant on the issue at the Justice Department and the author of two of the memos, acknowledged in an interview that he was aware the army was conducting surveillance and building files on protesters.

Mr. Bower's July 23, 1968 memo on potential civil disturbances in Washington, D.C., informed Mr. Christopher that the "main source of intelligence" in the city was the army's 116th Military Intelligence Unit.

"The 116th relies upon local police departments for some of their information, but also have their own operatives in the area," Mr. Bower said in the memo to Mr. Christopher.

That document and others on potential civil unrest were turned over to the Johnson library by Mr. Christopher in 1969. However, some of the

papers were not available to public inspection until 1985. Sixty-seven intelligence summaries and other documents in the Christopher files are closed to public inspection, classified for reasons of national security and privacy.

Two previously classified memos to Attorney General Ramsey Clark, which note Mr. Christopher was to receive copies, detail demonstrators' preparations for the August 1968 Democratic national convention in Chicago.

In another memo, Mr. Bower summarised for Mr. Christopher an army intelligence officer's briefing to the Inter-agency Civil Disturbance Steering Committee, set up to devise plans for dealing with civil unrest. Mr. Christopher served on the committee.

The briefing on "new left" and "anti-Vietnam War demonstrations" included a "run-down of some of the principal figures in the movement, a time schedule of planned activities to the election, and pictures of the Baltimore trial of draft-resister destroyers, including a picture of attorney William Kunstler who was identified as the attorney" for a black militant, Mr. Bower's memo said.